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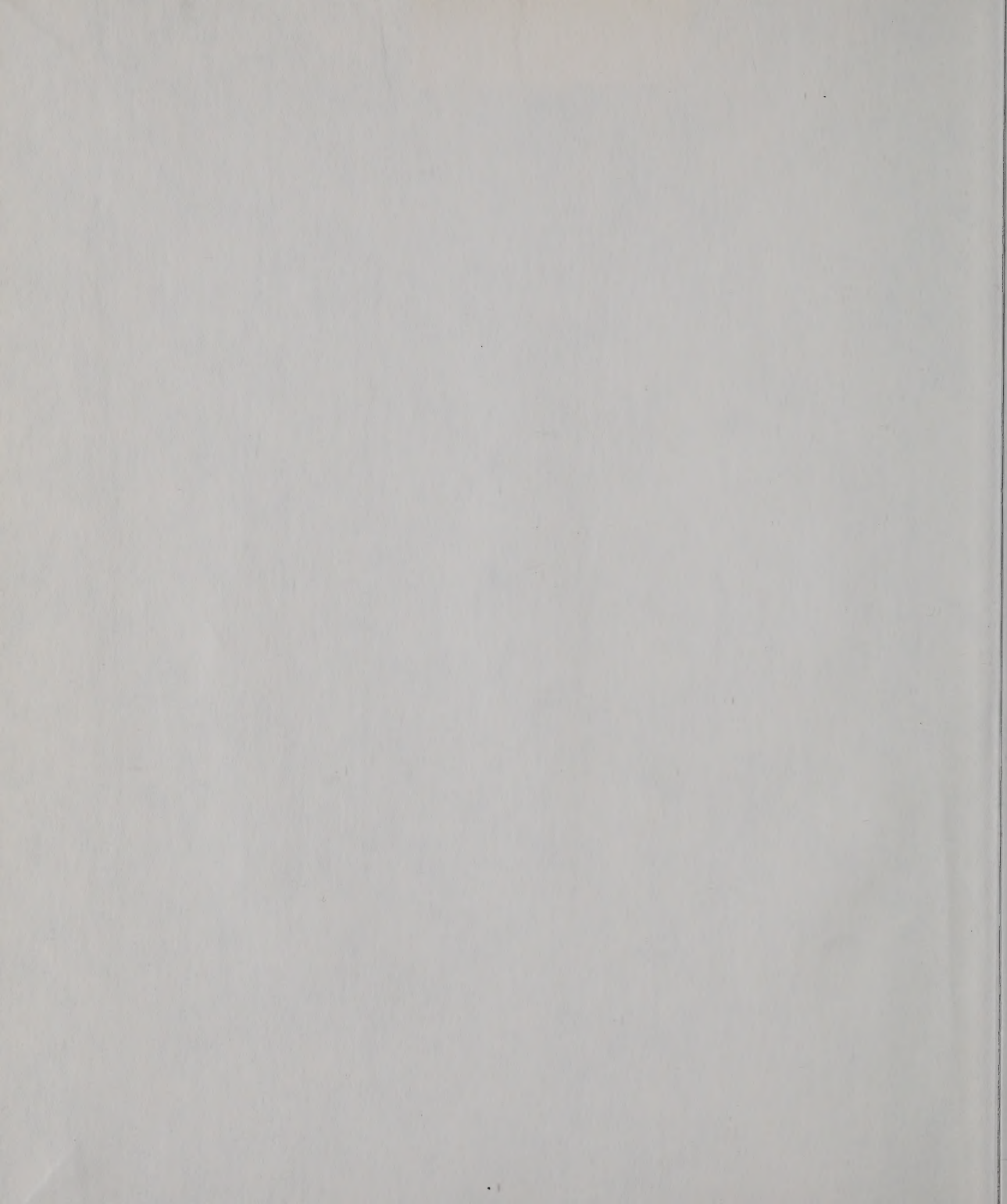
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HISTORY OF THE

CEMETERIES

OF

MARSHALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

VOLUME I

WHITEFIELD and HENRY TOWNSHIPS

Written by John F. Boose

Henry, Illinois

Under Auspices of the Marshall County Historical Society

Mrs. Blake B. Draves, Agent
Callinsville, Ill.

HISTORY OF MARSHALL COUNTY CEMETERIES

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Henry, Illinois August, 1928

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

The material contained in this booklet was originally published in serial form as a project of the Marshall County (Ill.) Historical Society, in two weekly newspapers in the county, the Henry News-Republican and the Lacon Home Journal, during a period from mid-October, 1957, through mid-January, 1958.

It was so well received that near the close of that period, the decision to publish it in booklet form was made, although it necessitated considerable in the way of editing, revision, and many corrections, most of the last coming from interested readers of the original newspaper articles.

Herein are covered most of the old-time cemeteries in Whitefield and Henry Townships, and rather sketchily at that in many instances, because of the difficulty in learning very much really authentic material about many of them. From the nature of most of them, purely family-and-neighborhood, or church parish, burying-grounds, no plats of any but one so covered, ever existed. No "lots" were ever sold; no regular care, either by or under the supervision of a regular sexton, was ever given them; no money, indeed, ever changed hands, except for actual grave openings — and even many of those were made gratis, by neighbors or relatives.

What information we have been able to publish was in most cases, unearthed "the hard way": examining old newspaper files (of the Henry News-Republican, particularly) and old-time books of county history and biography (quoted directly in most instances in the text), and also, many hours spent in copying actual grave-stone inscriptions.

(In this last department, we acknowledge with grateful appreciation a vast amount of help given us by two young ladies of the Mt. Hawley area, Mrs. James Herberger and her sister, Mrs. James Crim (the latter, now, however, of Batavia, Ill.), who loaned us complete lists of inscriptions copied by them, of several of the various cemeteries herein covered.)

Much of the remainder has necessarily had to be pure speculation, though where used, it has been in most cases, plainly labeled as such.

We wish it might have been possible to publish in connection with each cemetery so treated, the complete list of grave-stone inscriptions to be found in each; obviously, it would amount to a most burdensome task, although should the demand for such arise, from purchasers of this booklet, an attempt may be made to do so, as a Supplement to it.

John F. Boose.

Henry, Illinois, August, 1958.

CHAPTER I

THE NIGHSWONGER CEMETERY

The Nighswonger cemetery is intimately tied up with the family of that name, one of the early settlers of the southeast corner of Whitefield township and the adjoining area to the south in Steuben township.

The cemetery itself is located very close to the south edge of Whitefield, in the southeast quarter of Section 34, on land owned by the Ben Hunt family, less than a quarter-mile east and slightly south of their farm home, on the south side of the Thenius Hollow road. It is located on the crown of a rather heavily wooded hill, the ground sloping off to both west and south, for excellent drainage. A good sound fence surrounds it on all sides, access to it being possible through a good all-metal gate, on a none-too-well surfaced driveway.

Rather few burials having stones are easily visible from the road, most of them being further to the south end of the cemetery, which occupies probably no more than an acre in extent.

As was the case with most others of its kind, the land was never officially set aside as a cemetery, no lots were ever "sold" to users, no care fund was ever established, and little if any care ever taken of it for a great many years. Brush and other growth fills its area quite heavily, except where excessive shade from the numerous trees stunts it. Most of the more recent burials in it—for it is still occasionally used—are in this area, roughly about its exact center.

First Used About 1854

The first member of the Nighswonger family to come to the indicated area, according to Ellsworth's standard text on Marshall county history, was Reason Nighswonger. He arrived in 1847, but stayed in this area only a few years, selling out his holdings and moving to Iowa.

A brother, Solomon Nighswonger, also came to Whitefield, about 1851, and stayed on to spend the rest of his life here. He was one of the prime movers in the organization of the now defunct Whitefield Baptist church, which was organized formally on Oct. 12, 1854, possibly in Solomon Nighswonger's own home.

For several years, attempts were made to consolidate the church with the Sparland Baptist church, but finally it was decided to erect a building. Ellsworth describes it as a "neat and comfortable structure," seating about 300, and costing around \$2,200 to build, a sizeable amount in those days. It was dedicated Oct. 23, 1864. It stood on the southeast corner of the present R. Leslie Waughop farm, near the

middle of the south line of Section 28, on the north side of the (then) Bonham Hill road, now usually called the Waughop Hill road.

Church Had No Cemetery

The later never had a parish cemetery of its own, its members using several, principally the Nighswonger, Bonham, and Sugar Grove cemeteries, all in Whitefield township. Its membership was rather widely scattered throughout it. Probably the fact that the church's building was so long delayed after its formal organization had been completed, and its families became accustomed to using various already-existing cemeteries, had a great deal to do with the absence of one. (All three of the other Whitefield churches did have their own parish "church-yards.")

Family Burial Grounds

The Nighswonger cemetery appears, however, to have been primarily a family, rather than a neighborhood, or community, proposition, though relatively few of the burials in it are of persons carrying the name itself. Of about 40 burials identified by stones that are still legible, only 17 do, though spelled in two ways; occasionally one runs across the name spelled as "Neighswonger."

The earliest burial in it appears to have been an infant son of Reason Nighswonger, Isaac, who died May 27, 1854, at the age of 2 years, 1 month, and 11 days. The next two which have legible gravestones both took place in September, 1856: Sellers Metz, 4-months old son of R. and E. Metz, dying Sept. 11, and Oscar M. Holler, 33-day old infant son of G. H. and Henrietta Holler, on Sept. 27.

Unlike most cemeteries of this type, there was no single period when it reached any particular "peak" of use. An analysis of dates of death on the gravestones in it indicates that it was used probably "as the necessity arose," with a fairly steady, even if quite seldom, usage. Throughout its probable 103 years of service to the Nighswonger family and its descendants and neighbors, it has had a steady, though hardly spectacular average of about one burial in 2½ years—and its usage pattern has closely followed that average. Very seldom had there been as many as two burials in it in any given year.

Nine In Past 14 Years

This pattern was very consistent down through the first decade of the 20th century. Then, for some reason, in 30 years' time (from 1910 to 1939), there were only three burials, two, oddly enough, coming the same year, 1924, and the third in 1939 itself. (Note: our only guide in this department is existing stones.)

Since then, however, there has been a noticeable upswing, with nine taking place in the past 14 years: Gus F. Hawksworth in 1944, Mrs. Thomas Kizer and Mrs. Anna Conrad in 1945, Thomas E. Nighswonger in 1947, Asa Nighswonger and Mrs. Anna Jane McCluskey in 1948, Anna (Mrs. Gus F.) Hawksworth beside her husband in 1955, and two others in very recent months.

Up until his retirement from funeral practice in March, 1951, the late Fred H. Gehr of Sparland handled practically all the burials in it, and his predecessor, A. J. Baughman, Sparland's first "undertaker," most of those before Mr. Gehr's time.

Some Graves Not Marked

As is the case with most cemeteries, there are probably some burials in this cemetery which were never marked, which might add materially to the 40 or so estimated which do have stones, or Mr. Gehr's temporary grave-markers, many of which, though out for a number of years in the weather, are still quite legible.

Both Solomon Nighswonger (Oct. 13, 1815 — May 26, 1886) and his wife Anna (Sept. 18, 1817 — Sept. 30, 1892), whose land was used for the cemetery, lie buried in it, and most of the actual Nighswongers in it are descendants of theirs. However, three children of Reason Nighswonger are among its burials, including the only war veteran buried in it, David Nighswonger, who served in the Civil War in Co. F of the 77th Illinois volunteer infantry. He was born, according to his obituary in the Henry Republican, Jan. 28, 1845, and died May 20, 1867, at slightly over 22 years of age.

Among the names other than Nighswonger appearing on stones in the cemetery are: Pinkerton, Burson, Marshall, Hunt, Metz, Malone, Hawkworth, Kizer, Conrad, Combs, Johnson, McClusky, Holler, Reader, Gregory, and Elliott. Many of these names are still to be found in the area. But the proportion of graves which shows any evidence of having been decorated on Memorial Day each year is pitifully small.

It is probably safe to guess that the principal reason for this last is that very few members of this once prominent and influential family are left in this area, and what few are, are for the most part, well advanced in years, and possibly unable to do as they might wish to in that regard.

CHAPTER II

THE BONHAM CEMETERY

This little cemetery, roughly about an acre in extent, was undoubtedly the earliest burying-ground among the six in Whitefield township, yet, according to the prevailing custom of the times, the land itself was never conveyed nor dedicated for that purpose.

Though in frequent and regular use for about 55 years, and presumably well maintained at that time, today it presents a rather sorry sight, well filled with brush and volunteer trees, but at least, with most of its 60-odd stones still intact. There is at present a fairly new and completely sound fence around it, which effectively keeps cattle from the adjoining pasture land behind it from any more depredations than already have been made; however, it is open on the road face.

This cemetery is located close to the southeast corner of Section 35 in Whitefield, on the rather steep westward slope leading up from the former course of Rte. 29 which starts climbing along the bluff just below the present Charles Meihnsner home (formerly the State Game lodge), about half-way between this point and the former beginning of the Bonham, or Waughop, Hill road. It lies just a few rods south of a former coal mine, but is so densely filled with brush that it could easily be missed by a passer-by — except when the foliage is completely gone.

Not many years ago, it was plainly visible from Rte. 29's newer course, at any time of year. Several rather tall needle-type monuments can still be picked out above the brush-tops among the trees, but a careful watch to see them is usually necessary, nowadays.

Semi-Public Cemetery

Even though the property of the Bonham family, and used almost exclusively by its early generations, Warford Bonham, Sr., owner of the land, always made it clear that his neighbors and friends were welcome to make use of it as the occasion arose. Although only 16 of the stones carry the Bonham name, many of the other names, including Hoskins, Tanquary, Teagarden, Taylor, and Swift, were all related to the Bonhams, mostly by marriage. Still other names, which may or may not be related, include: Norris, Schrader, Jenkins, Larr, Hubbard, Lee, Bennett, Christman, Wright, Stephenson, Bickerton, Tuttle, Timmons, Schade, Henry, and Beyer.

There is not much doubt that the cemetery was first begun in 1846, as three burials with that date on their stones are still to be found; if there were any earlier ones, they no longer have stones.

These three were: Sarah Bonham, first wife of Jeriah Bonham (son of Warford, Sr.), born Aug. 5, 1821, died July 30, 1846; and just a few weeks later, their infant son Hardin Bonham, died Sept. 12, 1846, at the age of one year. In between these two, on Aug. 29, 1846, was Norman W. Bonham, six-months-old son of William M. and Amanda Bonham, William M. being another son of Warford, Sr.

Last Burial in 1920's

From then on, the cemetery was in consistently frequent use, ranging from one to four burials per year, up until about 1870; through the 1870's and 1880's, only occasionally; then, a considerable flurry of activity through the early 1890's, which terminated with two burials, one in 1900 and one in 1901: Margaret C. (Mrs. George Jacob) Christman (Oct. 27, 1900), and six-year-old Dolly May Hubbard, who died Sept. 4, 1901.

One final burial, unidentified as we write this, we have been told, took place in the early 1920's, but no stone presently marks it.

Five stones indicate births in the 1700's: Warford Bonham, Sr. (Nov. 18, 1781 — July 23, 1869); his wife, Rebecca (Mason) Bonham (Nov. 28, 1789 — Feb. 17, 1858); Peter Larr (Dec. 31, 1786 — June 22, 1852); Margaret Stephenson, wife of a T. Stephenson (died April 1, 1864, in the 69th year of her age, making her born about 1794 or 1795); and Arzilla (Edgebert) Swift, wife of Philander Swift (July 10, 1792 — Feb. 21, 1856), these last named being the progenitors of the very large Swift family of Whitefield and Henry townships, and also a portion of it which removed many years ago to the Rooks Creek-Graymont area in Livingston county, about 10 to 15 miles west of Pontiac.

Large Bonham Relationship

The senior Warford Bonhams were among the early settlers of the township, history stating that they arrived in Whitefield in 1835. They came originally from Ohio to Illinois, stopping first for a two-year period in Tazewell county, near Pekin, then coming by flat-boat up the river to where they claimed land in Section 35 of Whitefield.

With them were nine of twelve children, two of the eldest already married. These were: Mahala, wife of James Tanquary; both are buried in the cemetery; James Tanquary died quite young, just past 40, on Jan. 24, 1849, and Mahala re-married Abraham Tanquary; among the great-grandchildren of Mahala (Bonham) Tanquary still residing in this area are: Lucian Fosdick, and Beulah (Mrs. Clarence S.) Schneider, both of Henry, and Rena (Mrs. Ralph Palmer) Greene of Lacon; among the younger grandchildren are Ethel E. (Mrs. Andrew C.) Kelly and Miss Nellie Tanquary of Henry, and Bessie (Mrs. Michael) Jacobs of Sparland;

George Bonham, married twice: first to Lucretia Ann Lowery, who died very young, Nov. 4, 1854, and was buried in this cemetery, and second, to Amanda Frisbey, a daughter of another pioneer of the

out of several children, by both wives, the only one who grew to maturity was one son, Charles, who lived in Streator; hereabouts, or at least, who carry the name;

Eliza, wife of John S. Hoskins, whose eldest son, Leonard Hoskins, was among the first children born in Whitefield township, in 1835; grandchildren living in this area include Miss Della Taylor of Sparland, also J. R. Blackwell of Sparland; and Lillian (Mrs. Arthur) Kehlenbach of Chillicothe, whose death occurred in recent months;

One Son a Prominent Journalist

Jeriah Bonham, who in 1839, married Sarah Atwood, daughter of the Timothy Atwoods of Whitefield, and after her death on July 30, 1846 (probably the first burial in this cemetery), married Ellen W.?.....; he lived much of his life in Peoria, and was a widely known journalist — among his works being a volume entitled "Fifty Years Recollections" (pub. 1883, at Peoria), which includes interesting sidelights on many of the prominent men of the entire state, from governors on down to country doctors, editors, and business men of this area; not having access to any genealogical material beyond his two wives, we are unable to give the names of any of his descendants;

William M. Bonham, who, with his wife Amanda, have probably the largest number of living descendants in this area, including a large part of the extensive McLaughlin family in the Sparland area, also the Hill family of Sparland;

Warford Bonham, Jr., married a daughter of the Philander Swifts, Lucy Ann; both are buried in the cemetery, together with two children, Eben and Frances T., and a grandchild, Charles Teagarden; again, we have no tabulation of descendants to refer to, but any living descendants must have come from daughters who married other names;

Mary Ann Bonham married Henry Hoskins, in 1852; some of the present Sparland residents of that name are descendants of this marriage;

Clayton Bonham, eighth member of the Warford Bonham, Sr., family, died May 1, 1872, at 48, at Lacon, and was reported to have been buried in the Bonham cemetery; but his grave, if actually there, has no stone to mark it. No mention of survivors, if any, appears in his obituary.

A Second Bonham-Swift Marriage

Henson D. Bonham, for many years a resident of Henry, who also married into the Philander Swift family, the latter's daughter Luana, also in 1852; both are buried in Henry City Cemetery, together with three of their children, but probably have no living descendants in this area;

And the youngest, Emily Bonham, who probably died in infancy or early childhood while the parents lived in Tazewell county, since it is mentioned in family records in local biography that she did die

unmarried; her next older brother Henson was born in 1831; the family came to Marshall county without her; and they lived during 1833 and 1834 in Tazewell county.

In spite of its age and number of burials, estimated at between 70 and 80, only one war veteran's grave is listed for it: that of Warford Bonham, Sr., himself, who was a captain in the U. S. Army in the War of 1812. A biographical sketch of his son, Henson D., published in 1896, states that he raised a company of volunteers and was its captain throughout the war.

It also gives his birthplace as in Washington county, Maryland, and that of his wife, in New Jersey. Both, with their families, eventually came to Ross county, Ohio, where they met and married. (Ross county in in South Central Ohio; County seat: Chillicothe.) They were married in 1808.

Now Beginning Seventh Generation

There are far more persons residing locally who are descendants of this very highly respected family of real pioneers, than have been mentioned in this story by name, numbering probably well over 100, but not a single one, to our not too great knowledge on the subject, still carries the Bonham name. In fact, with the exception of the cemetery itself, the name has all but vanished completely from Marshall county. Even the road long known as "Bonham Hill road," is now far more commonly know as the "Waughop Hill road," from the Waughop family who have more recently owned much of the land formerly in the Bonham name.

The Bonham family, however, in spite of all its present-day descendants in this area now carrying other names (all descended from daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of the senior Warford Bonhams), can claim one distinction with little or no serious competition: within the past few years, it has begun its seventh successive area-residing generation, without a break of residence outside western Marshall county.

CHAPTER III

THE MANSFIELD CEMETERY

This little cemetery, probably totally unknown to all but the oldest of the "old timers" of the Henry-Whitefield area, is variously known as the "Brick Church," "Whitefield Presbyterian," or simply "Mansfield" cemetery. It probably had never been given an official name, but was the parish cemetery, or "church-yard," of what was officially known (in the records of the Presbytery of Peoria) as the Mansfield Presbyterian church.

Almost any of those names might have been about equally accurate, however, as the Mansfield church was the only Presbyterian church in Whitefield, and also the only church constructed of brick. As the church was called by anyone speaking of it, so probably was its cemetery; we shall, however, for the sake of the official name of the church, refer to it by the name of Mansfield. (We have not the faintest idea, though, of the origin or significance of the name.)

It was one of at least two, and probably three, church parish cemeteries in the township. One other such is the Whitefield Center (Methodist) cemetery; the third one, we have never learned for sure, and can hardly discuss (because it is now completely non-existent) for lack of any sure knowledge of it, whether it was or was not the "official" parish cemetery of the now-defunct Whitefield Christian church. It seemed always to have been referred to in older documents as the Burson cemetery, after one of two Burson brothers, who owned the land on which it was located; though it was located adjacent to the church.

Probably Fourth Whitefield Cemetery

Lacking any positive information about this Burson cemetery, and especially its origins and dates, it appears that the Mansfield cemetery was probably the fourth of the six Whitefield parish, neighborhood, and semi-public cemeteries to be opened. (Bonham in 1846; Nighswonger in 1854 (probably); Sugar Grove, the township's only public, or community, cemetery, about 1855-56; and Mansfield more than likely about the time its parent church was actually built, about 1858. (The Whitefield Christian church, adjoining the Burson cemetery, was built in 1864.))

Although its location is noted in currently-used Marshall county plat-books, in the northeast quarter of Section 30 of the township, probably anyone driving past the site on the Rowe Hill road would never suspect that a cemetery once stood there—and we say "stood" advisedly, because today, not a single stone in it is left standing.

The three acre tract once owned by the church is now the property of Frank Clift, whose home is almost directly across the road from it, a few rods west. The old church building was gone, and the cemetery itself a complete shambles when his family came into possession of it over 50 years ago; but at least, the site is covered fully with grass, and no brush has ever been allowed to "take over," as in so many others of its type. This happens to be more than can be said of any others of the old, abandoned cemeteries we are describing in this volume.

Church Members Experience Difficulties

The history of this little cemetery is also the history of the church that once stood beside it. Both had a fairly short, and somewhat stormy life, and both have vanished into almost complete oblivion, except in the memories of the few remaining "old-timers" of the community who dimly remember them, and they are few indeed.

Quite an extended account of the church's organization, building, and activities, up until the year 1880, appears in Ellsworth's volume published in that year, being our principal source of that information; the balance, rather indefinite and incomplete, we have had to unearth from old newspaper files, and the somewhat dim memories of a few we have asked concerning it. There are probably no more than 50, perhaps fewer, persons still living who remember anything at all about it, and only a few of them remember ever being inside the building. Even some of those give us some slightly conflicting details about it.

This much is history: the church was the second of the four Whitefield churches to be organized, but the first to erect a building; and this last was by far the largest building, almost twice the ground floor area of the next-largest.

The organization meeting took place in a school-house near the location where some four years later, the church was actually built. A committee from the Presbytery of Peoria met with the little circle of prospective members on Tuesday, May 16, 1854, and after the necessary steps had been taken, the church was pronounced as "duly organized."

All went well, Ellsworth says, for a few years, with regular services being held in the same and other nearby schoolhouses, and occasionally private homes, until the question of erecting a suitable house of worship began to be seriously discussed. Then, things suddenly took an entirely different turn; Ellsworth cites the ensuing events as "making local history for all time to come."

Member Gets Out of Hand

It seems that a considerable dispute arose as to the location of the anticipated building. But perhaps we'd best let Ellsworth tell us about it in his quite refreshing style and choice of words and expressions: ". . . in March, 1857 . . . a business meeting was held to devise measures for the erection of a house worthy of worship. At this

meeting considerable ill-feeling was developed, chiefly upon the question of location. A prominent member, and one who by reason of his wealth and position was expected to contribute liberally to the enterprise, was consulted, but his preference as to a location was ignored by the majority, whereupon he became exceeding wroth, expressing himself with much greater force than elegance. . . ."

Ellsworth then goes on to describe the remainder of the meeting, in almost as much detail as if he himself had been present, indicating that the member in question wound up his rather torrid tirade by "consigning the majority to a locality more noted for warmth than piety."

Following this little outburst of temper, the member in question was immediately suspended, and notwithstanding his objections, the majority went ahead and accepted a site-donation offer of W. H. Brassfield, who in those days operated a tile factory at Redtown Corners, a mile and a half north of the highway crossing just east of the site, known for many years as "Lundy's corners."

Church Built 100 Years Ago

Some 20 months after the meeting just described, the church was finished, and dedicated with appropriate services the morning and evening alike of Sunday, Nov. 21, 1858, just a few months short of 100 years ago. It was, as indicated above, of red brick, somewhat resembling the present Henry Consolidated Grade school's brick in color, and although we do not know for sure, probably manufactured at the old Payne-Wikoff brickyard on Western avenue road, near the Henry-Whitefield township line. (Mrs. Mary Payne, apparently the second wife of Edward Payne, one of the partners, was a member of the Mansfield church.)

The church's floor dimensions were 40 by 70 feet, by quite a bit the largest structure of the four Whitefield churches. Its cost was about \$2,000 — about one-seventh of what a similar building would cost today. It stood on the west third of the three-acre tract, with the cemetery occupying the larger share of its remainder. However, the actual burials in the latter, judging by what stones are available for inspection, never reached even very close to its easterly end.

We have tried repeatedly to find some one who remembered the interior of the church well enough to describe it, but the following is the closest we can come to it—and this was told us by an elderly lady who dimly remembers attending occasional "evangelistic services" in it, as a child, though she herself and her family were affiliated with the Whitefield Center Methodist church; she also qualifies her description with the fact that her memory "might not be altogether accurate" on a few of the details:

Kerosene Lamp Chandeliers

Our informant did not remember whether the interior was of the same brick as the exterior, or plastered, but it was painted, rather than papered. The furnishings were far from elegant, even a bit

severe. The pews were painted, rather than varnished, and home-made, rather than professionally made by a factory specializing in them—probably resembling rather closely those in the Putnam Christian church and the Saratoga Methodist church before their recent remodeling. She did not remember whether any of the aisles were carpeted or not—few were, in those days. The church had one central aisle, and two side aisles, with two sections of pews; the dais, or pulpit platform, stood at the south end.

Music was furnished sometimes by a piano, sometimes by one of the old-time "parlor organs" which were very common in those days. The windows, probably five or six on either side, were of plain glass; stained glass would have more than doubled the cost of the church.

Lighting for evening services, which were always held every Sunday evening, was accomplished by two, or possibly three chandeliers, made up of kerosene lamps, which could be lowered from the ceiling by chains on pulleys, for lighting and extinguishing. A few others also adorned the side-walls in between the windows.

These details are to the best of the memory and recollection of our informant, recently deceased, who admitted that a few of them could have "gotten mixed up with other churches" in Whitefield at that time.

Records Lost in Mail

Partly anticipating writing this volume about two years ago, and partly out of pure curiosity to know who the member was who "got out of hand" with his little temper tantrum on the matter of location we have quoted, we asked the stated clerk (permanent executive secretary) of the Presbytery of Peoria for the loan of the session minutes of the church. The book was mailed us—uninsured—and somehow, got lost in the mails. Our only comment: a serious loss of valuable historical material.

The church functioned well for about 30 to 35 years after its building was completed, but about that time, began to experience serious losses in membership, from members moving further west to Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Kansas — a rather common thing in those days — and the lost members were not replaced by new ones among the later newcomers to this area, most of whom seemed to be of other religious preferences.

These losses had become so serious in the late 1880's that there was some talk of disbanding the church organization. In the early 1890's it finally did become necessary. We have never been able to establish the exact date. The building continued on, unused except for occasional community meetings, entertainments, or political rallies, for another eight to ten years, and finally it, too, disappeared.

A man well remembered in the Henry-Whitefield community was given the task of dismantling it, the late William Morton True, whose son Fred still lives in Henry, and has one very vivid recollection of the affair, sustained while "helping," as a lad of about seven

or eight years, his father in the task. He was attempting to pull a stubborn nail from a timber, and it came suddenly loose with enough force that the hammer flew up and hit him in the face. The result was a beautiful "shiner" which Fred sported until almost time for school that fall.

Cemetery Loses Popularity

When Ellsworth wrote his historical volume in 1880, almost his only comment regarding the cemetery itself was, that in later years, "its members began to show a preference for other locations." Granting that it was first begun at or about the time of the completion of the building itself (fall of 1858), it probably served the little parish for only about 20 years. At least, what few stones we have been able to examine, all show dates of death in the 1850's and 1860's, though from old newspaper obituaries, we learned that a few burials in it did take place in the early 1870's.

The reason for the "preference for other locations" Ellsworth cites is fairly obvious: in those days, it was generally thought best to have cemetery locations on hillsides, or at least, sloping ground which has some chance of drainage — such things as water-proof burial vaults were unknown at that time — and this cemetery was just about exactly level. But more than likely, the William H. Brassfield land donation for the site of cemetery and church was like the proverbial "gift horse," and after "squelching" the unruly but perhaps still wiser-than-they member described earlier in this story, who were they to object with a very clear conscience?

Sugar Grove and Henry City, and perhaps Sparland cemeteries were the "other locations" which Mansfield people finally began using. We have no idea when the last burial in the Mansfield cemetery took place, but quite likely, in the 1880's.

There were some 18 stones with still legible inscriptions available for inspection when the county historical society visited it Oct. 13, 1957, and we know through newspaper obituaries of at least six more. This total is still only about 40 percent of the 60-odd burials in it which Frank Clift, its present owner, estimates. Those known two dozen are almost equally divided between adults and children.

Some Have Local Living Relatives

Only two names appearing on stones in it are at present represented in Henry and surrounding area: a Daniel McVicker, who died July 4, 1862, at the age of 30 years and two months; and two members of a Brown family, which we have been told by a distant relative are part of the extensive Brown relationship which includes the whole Henkins family, most of the Putnam and Lone Tree Andersons, and a few actual Browns in Henry, of the Adam Brown family: Elizabeth Brown, wife of Simon, who died Nov. 23, 1858, at 67 years of age, exactly two days after the dedication of the building itself, and possibly among the very first few burials in the cemetery; and a Mary L. Brown, daughter of T. P. Brown, who died Jan. 2, 1862, at

the age of 14 years, 10 months, and 6 days, quite possibly a granddaughter of Elizabeth.

All the other names: Cunningham, Terwilliger, Beeks, Eckly, Deyoe, Diehl, Patterson, Yates, Faris, Byers, Hervey, Rogers, and Kirk, are at present wholly missing from area directories.

A few, however, do have some distant relatives living hereabouts, or may be related to parts of their families: the Kirk family, once very prominent in Whitefield, is related to the Barnes family of Whitefield; and a portion of the Diehl family, though not the one buried in Mansfield cemetery, is related to the Hunt family of Henry and Sparland, and also to a part of the Forney family.

Up until a few years ago, one surviving member of the Faris family lived in this area, but died and was buried elsewhere. This Faris family was among the "leading lights" in both the original organization of the church, and most of its actual existence. A Rev. Faris was a member of the Presbytery's organization committee, and another of the same name was one of its early pastors, and an R. P. Faris was its clerk of session (secretary of its official board) for a very long period. When the Faris family left, the church was mortally crippled.

Two Civil War Veterans

For historical reasons, and human as well, next after the Faris family in importance would probably come that of Samuel Byers, one of the two Civil War veterans buried there, a man with a most sympathy-provoking story.

We reprint in full the rather brief and sketchy but meaningful obituary which appeared for him in the (then) Henry Republican issue of Feb. 29, 1872:

"We chronicle this week the death of Samuel Byers of Whitefield; he has been an invalid for a number of years, but after losing two wives by death, he has managed to keep his little family of three children together. At his death the friends have given homes to the orphans. He enlisted in Col. Marshall's 1st Illinois cavalry at the commencement of the war, was captured at the battle of Lexington, Mo., and paroled. Subsequently, by accident, his name got on the enlistment roll twice, and both names were drawn, but on examination he was rejected. He was a member of the Presbyterian church of Whitefield, and lived a consistent life."

Lost Two Children Also

Neither the names of his deceased wives, nor any of his children, appear in either death notice or obituary, nor does the fact that he lost at least two children, both buried in this cemetery. The name of the first wife, whose stone we found on one recent visit there, was Mary Jane, and she died April 5, 1861, at the age of 30. A son of this marriage, Thomas Reed Byers, died in January, 1867, at the age of 20. Only a few weeks prior to that last date, an infant daughter, Geraldine Curtis Byers, had died, Sept. 18, 1866, at not quite three

months, and on Feb. 13, 1867, the latter's mother, Samuel Byers' second wife, Rachel C. Byers, at the age of 36. Her obituary states that she was born in Ohio county, W. Va. (county seat: Wheeling).

Samuel Byers himself died Feb. 22, 1872, according to the published death notice, but we found no stone for him. For many years, the local G.A.R. post used to nail two flags to a tree along the edge of the cemetery, near the roadside fence, in memory of the two veterans (the other was Richard Stulz, of whom we have no further information than that he served in the 28th Illinois infantry regiment), but even the tree is gone now.

On May 18, 1882, a Mary J(ane?) Byers died at Dunlap, Ill., of consumption, at the age of 25; her actual date of birth was March 4, 1857 (the day upon which President Buchanan was inaugurated). No mention of her parentage or other survivors is given. But the fact that her obituary appeared in a Henry newspaper, although her death took place entirely outside its normal circulation area, would indicate that she was known to some people within it. Also, the name Byers is far from being at all common, and its far more common spelling is "Beyers." The name itself, probably Mary Jane, identical with Samuel Byers' first wife's, and all the other circumstances, seem to indicate that she was a daughter of him and his first wife. Her obituary did not state where she was buried.

The Zephaniah Bell Family

One other very prominent family in Mansfield church history was the Zephaniah Bell family, which retired from farming in the Mansfield area and moved to Henry, affiliating with the Henry Presbyterian church on May 16, 1875. (Mr. Bell passed away some 19 months later, but was buried in Henry City cemetery; his wife, Sarah, died in March, 1882, and was buried beside him.) Mr. Bell's obituary states that he was for many years a ruling elder in the Mansfield church.

As most couples did in those days, these people had a large family. Among their children were Dr. James Harvey Bell of Saratoga, and Robert H. Bell. Among the very few living descendants of the Zephaniah Bells in this area is a great-granddaughter, Lila Bell (Mrs. Clarence) Poling of Peoria, a former Henry resident. (Note: there were at least three Bell families residents of Western Marshall county, none of whom appear to have been related, or at least, very closely.)

There is some evidence that a few graves might have been moved out of the Mansfield cemetery. In one spot near its south central boundry, a depression which gives the appearance of graves re-opened and then not filled in level, is easily noted. Quite a little activity of this type took place in the closing years of the 19th century in several of the Whitefield cemeteries, including the whole of the old Burson cemetery, as we have noted.

CHAPTER IV

THE WHITEFIELD CENTER CEMETERY

Probably the full official name of this cemetery would be the "Whitefield Center Methodist Cemetery," since that would be the official name of the church which it served, mostly, as a parish cemetery, for now nearly 95 years. However, most area residents have long been in the habit of referring to it as the "Center" cemetery, or sometimes, just the "Whitefield" cemetery.

Undoubtedly, it was one of the last two of the Whitefield cemeteries, probably the last, still lacking definite information as to the date of opening of the former Burson cemetery, whose origins more than likely antedated the adjoining Whitefield Christian church by several years. (It was built in 1864.)

For what reason we have no idea, but Spencer Ellsworth in his volume of local and area history, devotes considerably less space to the history of this church than any other in the township. No date of founding is given, little if anything is said about the building, and just a bare mention of the cemetery. What little information we are able to give, comes entirely from former parishioners; and since its disbanding and removal of the building took place only a scant 35 years ago, there are many who remember it very well. It was by over 30 years the last of the four Whitefield churches to "give up the ghost" and join the host of defunct rural church organizations. After the disbanding of the other three, it absorbed some members from all of them, and kept going until in the 1920's, finally succumbing to faster and better transportation over the then gravelled roads, to city churches. Its remaining membership divided itself between the Henry and Saratoga Methodist churches. Quite a few middle-aged and elderly people in the western part of the county were formerly members of this church.

Nearing 100 Years Old

Again, as with the three cemeteries we have already discussed, this cemetery can probably be dated only by the oldest dates of burials on stones in it, with even that being a none-too-reliable guide, because transference of graves in those days (such as from farm burial plots, or even other cemeteries) was far more common than it is today, and this cemetery definitely contains burials of dates earlier than its earliest possible founding.

There are two stones in it indicating burials in 1851 and 1854, and another in 1859. Almost certainly, these were all moved in from elsewhere.

Three burials in it have stones with 1861 dates on them: Alma Huffman, daughter of C., or G., (stone so badly worn it is hard to decide which is correct) and S. A. Huffman, who died Feb. 3, 1861 (born Nov. 22, 1860); one of twin sons, Joseph and Benjamin, of Thomas and Margaret Funston, born June 18 or 19, 1832, and died Feb. 22, 1861—the inscription is not clear as to which one died then; and Henry C. Kingsley, son of S. and E. Kingsley, March 24, 1842—March 17, 1861. (The latter's sister-in-law, Mary Agnes Bell (Mrs. Jonathan G.) Kingsley, was a daughter of the Zephaniah Bells of the Mansfield church, mentioned on a preceding page. She died in Lacon, Sept. 4, 1881, at the age of 41.)

The only marked burial in 1862 was that of George Huffman, a brother of the Alma Huffman mentioned above.

All the above are definitely believed to have been buried elsewhere originally, and later transferred to this cemetery.

Mahlon Hunt, Civil War Veteran

The lone death in 1863 that is marked with a stone, a rather imposing, tall marble needle, was that of young Mahlon Hunt, a son of Richard and Ruth (Horrom) Hunt, and brother of Lyman C., Timothy S., Sylvia M. (Mrs. Alfred J. Diehl), Lydia E., Jennie E. (Mrs. Richard H. Delmedge), Ruth (Mrs. Benjamin Andrews), and Mary. His brothers especially are well remembered locally, though some of the sisters left this area and went to Kansas, Oregon, and other western locations.

Young Mahlon, next younger than Lyman (born April 15, 1837), enlisted in the Union army during the Civil War, and was a member of the 86th Illinois infantry regiment, which did most of its early fighting in the western campaigns, under Generals Buell and Rosecrans. His death is recorded as of Oct. 24, 1863, at Chattanooga, Tenn. Severely wounded in the Battle of Chickamauga Creek a few weeks previous, when a bungled order by a subordinate officer under Rosecrans precipitated a serious Union defeat, young Hunt died of wounds. He was buried in a Chattanooga cemetery originally, but his remains were returned in 1864 to Whitefield for burial in the Hunt family plot there. His was the first burial of seven Civil War soldiers and veterans in this cemetery. His father, Richard Hunt, who died Sept. 24, 1881, was a veteran of the Indian warfare in 1830-32, usually known as the Blackhawk War.

The Hunt family, among the earliest settlers in Marshall county, originally claimed land on the east side of the river, along Big Sandy creek, but later on, crossed the river to become some of Whitefield's earliest pioneers. A fairly large number of present residents of Marshall and Putnam counties claim descent from Richard and Ruth (Horrom) Hunt, among the older ones, Ola G. Hunt of Sparland, Lawrence R. Hunt, formerly of Henry but now of Peoria, Elmer L. Hunt of Henry, all sons of Lyman C. Hunt; and numerous grandchildren of Timothy S. Hunt living in the Sparland and Putnam and Lone Tree communities.

Very Busy for 40 Years

If dates on stones can be used as anything of a reliable guide, this cemetery was by far the busiest of all six Whitefield cemeteries throughout a 40-year period beginning about 1866, and continuing up until the first decade of the present century. Many years saw six, seven, or more burials, with seldom less than three.

Unfortunately, an overly large proportion of these were children. The dreaded epidemics of diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, and once in a while, small pox, took a fearful toll of young lives in those years — now, thanks to vaccinations, inoculations, and antibiotics, almost completely eliminated from the scene as killers. And of course, the ever-present "white plague" of "consumption," as it was called in those days, took its annual toll as well — another dreaded killer that has all but completely succumbed to the advances of modern medical science.

Many Prominent Families

Many of the names found on Whitefield Center stones — probably as large a percentage of them as in any except Sugar Grove — made history in the early days of Western Marshall county. Quite a few are still well represented in present area population. Among these are (taken at random, rather than in any kind of sequence as regards order of appearance or local fame): Hunt, Combs, VanOstrand, Snell, Barrett, Diehl, Barnes, Lytle, Harris, Andrews, McVicker, Shurts, Dunlap, Mutton, Torrey, Aukland, Coan, Runnells, Higgins, Reinbeck, Carse, Mock, Chambers, Fosdick, Applen, True, Fountain, Fossett, Swift, Fox, Yarger, Newman, Bassett, Dunn, Hall, Stout, Warner, Young, Coulter, Colehower, Gray, and probably some others unintentionally omitted.

Not all of those listed above have living descendants or relatives in the Marshall-Putnam and neighboring areas, but a majority do. (Quite a few of these same names also appear on Sugar Grove stones, representing other individuals or branches of the same families, their choice of cemeteries depending on the nearness of their farm homes to them, in some cases.)

Obviously, it would be impossible to list all the burials in this cemetery, or even just the adults. Stones mark close to 170 burials, and without a doubt, there are enough unmarked burials in it to bring the total to somewhat over 200.

Six Born in 1790's

Six of the 160-odd stones carry dates of birth in the 1790's. The oldest of these was a Nicholas James Torrey, born in the vicinity of Troy, N. Y., Aug. 2, 1792, and with his wife, Lotetia (Deyoe), herself born May 24, 1794, came to Whitefield with most of a family of 13 total children. He died Aug. 18, 1878; she on July 15, 1872. They probably have no local living descendants, most of their children having gone further west. A portion of this family, however, still lives in southeastern Kansas.

Richard Mutton, born in 1794 or 1795, died June 22, 1872, was another of Whitefield's "real" old-timers; next to his grave is that of a son, William H. Mutton, a Civil War veteran who served in the 86th Illinois infantry, and died Sept. 19, 1910. Their wives, however, are both buried elsewhere; Richard's wife in a farm pasture burial plot, and William's in another county, where she passed away.

A Dr. Harvey Harris (April 13, 1795 — May 10, 1870) was among Whitefield's early physicians. We do not know if any living persons of that name hereabouts are descended from him, but a sizeable family of that name is to found in the Milo community, including some in Henry.

George W. Lytle (March 18, 1796—Nov. 24, 1867) was the father-in-law of at least two prominent farmers of a later generation in Whitefield and Saratoga: John D. McVicker (his wife, Virginia C. Lytle) and Joseph Greenlee (his wife, Carolyn A. Lytle); there undoubtedly were other children of this family whose marriages and descendants we do not know of.

James Higgins, the sixth and last 1790-native, born April 9, 1799, died March 4, 1865, the date upon which the martyred President of Civil War times made his magnanimous "with malice toward none and charity for all" speech, was a great-grandfather of Frank L. Gray of Henry and Sparland. (The latter's father, J. Leonard Gray, was the last burial in the cemetery, and his aunt, Mae (Higgins) Holton, the next-last, in 1950 and 1949 respectively.)

Other Civil War Veterans

Beyond the three veterans already mentioned (Mahlon Hunt, his father, Richard Hunt, and William Mutton), there are five others interred in Whitefield Center, all from the Civil War.

Capt. Harmon Andrews, who served in both the Mexican and Civil Wars; in the Mexican, in the 15th Illinois infantry, and in the Civil War, in the 47th Illinois. He was born Jan. 29, 1820, died Feb. 7, 1875, one of Whitefield's most respected men. To our knowledge, he has no living descendants hereabouts. His wife, whose name and dates were never inscribed on the family monument, probably for that very reason, died just 33 days later, on March 12, 1875. Her obituary gives her name as Eliza, and her age as 56.

William Carse, who lies also in an unmarked grave, location known only because of his wife Hannah's monument, died Feb. 13, 1883. This family was distantly related to the Hall and Blood families of Henry.

Benjamin F. Smith (Aug. 19, 1841—April 6, 1872) was also a member of the 86th Illinois infantry. His wife, formerly Louisa C. Barnes, was a relative of the late Jay M. Barnes, of Whitefield.

James P. Swift (May 25, 1823—Sept. 26, 1892) was the second of eleven (?) children of Philander and Arzilla (Edgebert) Swift (the latter mentioned in the Bonham cemetery article in this volume), and another brother of Clark Swift, a well-known Whitefield farmer whose

son Merton passed away in recent years. Both married into the large and prominent Fosdick family, James Swift to Mary A. Fosdick, and Clark to Electa Fosdick. Mrs. Ethel Kelley of Henry is a granddaughter of the former couple; Percy and Claire Swift are grandsons of Clark and Electa (Fosdick) Swift.

Clark Colehower of Wenona, who died Feb. 11, 1916 at the age of 77, was the final war veteran burial in the cemetery.

Unlocated Veteran's Grave

There may possibly be one further war veteran's grave in this cemetery; but we have never found it, and likely never will. In a great many lists of war veterans buried in area cemeteries, the name of Elijah Camery appears, said to have enlisted, but was never assigned to an actual unit, and died in 1862, date not given in any data we have ever found.

If that much is true, he likely was sworn in, took sick, and died before ever being assigned. And if he is buried in this cemetery, he would have been one of its first burials.

However, the whole affair is subject to a series of huge question-marks. All the other Camerys in Marshall county are buried in either Sugar Grove or Henry City — none in Whitefield Center. Some records say he was in the War of 1812, though that is hardly likely. Also, he carries the same name as a prominent former Henry resident who never saw any war service. Local Camerys know nothing whatever of him or his possible connection with their family. And finally, a prominent Sugar Grove community retired farmer says he is sure that he is buried, albeit in an unmarked grave, in Sugar Grove.

In any event, if his grave was every marked, it no longer is, and apparently can never receive its rightful due of a flag each Memorial day in his memory.

Some Lots Still Cared For

This cemetery is nowhere nearly the complete shambles that the first three we have described are. Though approximately of the same age, it has been in occasional usage throughout more recent years, and possibly more different families are represented on the roll of its lot-holders. It was, it should be remembered, a church parish cemetery, though as is usually the case with small communities, intermarriages between its families were so frequent that in time, a large number of people in the community came to be related to one another.

Of all the families represented in it, three in particular are noteworthy for the fact that they make a serious attempt to care for their lots, and in some cases, oftener than just around Memorial day. For many years, the late Orie Fountain regularly mowed and trimmed the grass on his family's lots; his widow, Mrs. Elsie Fountain, and their two sons, Alvin and Clifford, are maintaining his good example.

Lyman Hunt's sons also care regularly for the Hunt lots; and Frank Gray and his family keep the Gray and Higgins lots looking well-groomed and cared for; so does Lucian Fosdick his family lot.

All this work is personally done, rather than hired. This writer has often seen those named, busily engaged in this praiseworthy ministry of respect and fond remembrance for those gone before. More should follow their example.

Not too many years ago, "Bill" Estes, a neighborhood farmer, had the position as caretaker of the cemetery, and still has a longing look in his eyes as he watches much of it grow up to weeds and brush, year after year, when there is no real necessity for it.

The Church Itself

So many people well remember the old church that stood on the upper (south) end of the slope along the Indian Trail road, about a quarter-mile south of Redtown corners, that no particular description of it, either inside or out, should be necessary.

No records exist in print of exactly when it was built, though presumably about 1861 or thereabouts. It was nowhere near the size of the Mansfield church (40x70 feet) — Ellsworth describes it as measuring 32x40 feet. Nor is much said about its neatness, attractiveness, or much of anything else.

The only remark we have ever heard about it, good, bad, or indifferent, was a rather "catty" comment passed many years ago by one of the feminine members of the congregation, who noted, in the hearing of the wife of the prominent Henry contractor-carpenter who built it, that he'd "better build one more and then quit." The insinuation of course was that the building was, to put it mildly, not exactly a masterpiece of construction. (Even so, it lasted a good 60 years, and served its parish well; it was no fault of the building that the church finally disbanded).

CHAPTER V

SUGAR GROVE CEMETERY

This cemetery is unique among the six Whitefield township cemeteries in several respects: it is the only one which is neither a church parish nor a family-and-neighborhood cemetery, but instead, was a fully non-sectarian, all-community burial ground; it is probably the best-known of all of them, and contains more graves than any other; it is by far the best kept and maintained; and its history is by quite a bit the easiest to trace.

Its location is near the spot where once stood a sizeable grove of sugar maple trees, from which the cemetery, the community, and the road past it, all received their name. The cemetery is on the north side of the Sugar Grove road where it bisects Section 11 of the township at its westerly edge, exactly four miles west of State Route 29 (Sugar Grove road being one mile north of Western avenue road); at one time, a north-south road crossed Sugar Grove road along that same section line, two miles in length from Western avenue road north to the Whitefield Corners road, though long since vacated.

The land surrounding the cemetery, timber and pasture land, is the property of Keith Blackburn, who is descended from three families—Blackburn, Clawson, and Gregory—which figured prominently in the early history of both the community and its little burial-ground. The cemetery itself stands on a slight eminence on the southern edge of the timber-pasture plot, sloping off to east, north, and west, affording ideal drainage—a “perfect” spot for a cemetery. The soil, however, is the yellow clay typical of that area.

First Opened in 1855-56; Gift of Francis Gregory

Another respect in which Sugar Grove is unique among the Whitefield cemeteries is the fact that the land so used was officially set aside for cemetery purposes; a quite extensive story about its origin and “authorship” appearing in an old issue of the (then) Henry Republican (issue of Sept. 22, 1887) states that one acre of ground was donated by the late Francis Gregory (about whom, together with his family, much more will be said in the story) for cemetery purposes, during the winter of 1855-56. The actual date of the grant was not given in the story, but the first burial in it was that of an infant nephew of the donor, Mark Gregory, son of George and Malinda (one of 13 total children), who died Nov. 14, 1856, at 15½ months of age.

There are, of course, several stones in the cemetery indicating earlier deaths, going back as far as 1851 (Elizabeth Wilson, 1872-1851), all of which must have been moved in from elsewhere, more than

likely from farm burial plots in the community; but this is one cemetery where we do have authentic published information to quote on its actual opening.

One other of these pre-1856 burials was that of the man for whom the township itself was named, and its first supervisor, John B. White, one of its earliest settlers. He and his bride of Dec. 30, 1841, formerly Eleanor B. Calef, both natives of Washington, Vt., came to Whitefield on a one-way honeymoon trip to take up their residence on a claim which Mr. White had entered some five years earlier on a trip to Marshall county.

Flaw in Title Loses Farm

However, it developed that there was a flaw in the title, and after a bitter, long-drawn-out legal battle, not decided until after the untimely death of Mr. White himself, on Oct. 30, 1852, the family finally lost the land. White, anticipating that such a thing might happen, had meanwhile purchased another farm adjoining his, and had commenced improving it, but in 1852, moved with his family to Henry to engage in the retail lumber business. Upon his death, he was buried originally in the old Henry cemetery, his grave being moved to Sugar Grove at a later date.

The John B. Whites had three children: Ellen Marie, who later became the wife of Ransom E. Gregory; J. Burritt; and Asa Orville, who left Marshall county for Milford, Ill., in Iroquois county. The elder son, a veteran of the Civil War (serving in Company B of the 136th Illinois infantry), also met an untimely death, from typhoid fever, on Feb. 11, 1868, shortly after graduating from (probably) Knox college at Galesburg. (His obituary does not specifically mention Knox college, and the former Lombard college, located also at Galesburg, was in operation at that time. We guess Knox, because it was at that time a Congregational-sponsored school, and the White family was known to have been of that religious preference and affiliation in Henry. Lombard was a Universalist denominational school.)

Left a widow at comparatively young age, only 37, Mrs. White several years later, on a visit to her native Vermont community, renewed acquaintance with a former girlhood friend, and returned to Henry as Mrs. Luther A. Jones. She passed away at the age of nearly 89, on Feb. 16, 1904, and was buried beside her first husband in Sugar Grove cemetery. A former resident of the community, who at that time helped regularly with its maintenance, Harry J. Blackburn, now of Madison, Wis., says he helped open her grave, with a more than common amount of frost to pick through in the process.

The tall, white marble needle-type monument which adorns the White family lot, marking these three burials, is one of the most legible in the cemetery of that material, in spite of its age.

The Gregory Family

There are perhaps more Gregorys—those of the name and descendants of daughters and granddaughters of other names as well—

buried in this cemetery than of any other lineage, except perhaps the Clawson family, which includes as many Gregory descendants as Gregory's include Clawsons—there were two Gregory-Clawson marriages in the community population, though both before coming to Sugar Grove. Unfortunately, we do not have anywhere near the full tabulation of either, though enough to make a partly respectable genealogical table.

As to just when the Gregory family first began to infiltrate the Sugar Grove area, we have never learned—but infiltrate it they did, from Ashtabula county, Ohio, with the following, all members of the same family, living at one time or another in Whitefield and/or Henry townships: Harrison J. (1813—1882), Francis (1816—1874, buried here), Ellen (Mrs. John) Clawson (1820—1896, buried here), George (1822—1895, but left the area for Nevinville, Ia., and died and was buried there), John (1825—1892, buried here), and Sarah (Mrs. John W.) Jones (1832—1879, buried in Winthrop, Mo.). (There may have been others we have missed for not knowing about them—if so, we're sorry! But for those listed, we have read and noted obituaries in local newspaper files.)

No "Name" Descendants Left Hereabouts

Just as with the Bonham family noted in a previous chapter, all the present-day descendants of this large, prominent, and influential family in the Whitefield-Henry area, now carry other names, children of daughters and granddaughters.

For one reason, quite a few of the "name" Gregorys caught the "go-West-young-man fever" and did so, principally to West Central Iowa, though some eventually reached the West Coast. One branch removed to Princeton, though "came home" to be buried in Henry City cemetery. And of the sons who remained here, few had sons who reached maturity, to carry on the name locally, and those few left for elsewhere.

Second generation Gregorys buried in Sugar Grove include: Jane C. (Gregory) (1836-1887), wife of Ezra P. Calef (1824-1903), one of ten children of Harrison J. (another, Mark (1835-1904), was originally buried here, but his grave later moved to Henry City cemetery); Mary (daughter of Francis, Sr., 1854-1887) wife of Samuel L. Clift (1847-1926), and several infant children of Francis Sr.: an unnamed infant daughter (Oct. 29, 1858-Nov. 10, 1858), Francis Jr. (1863-1865), and Berryman (1866-1869). George Gregory (Sr.) also buried two children in this cemetery: baby Mark (1855-1856), the first burial in it, and Frank, a younger son (1858-1859). One infant daughter of Ellen (Gregory) and John Clawson, Laura (1862-1865), completes the roster of Gregorys (who have stones, at least) buried here.

The Camery Family

Another of the prominent pioneer families of Whitefield (which then included also, present Saratoga, which was not set off as a separate township until some years after the county was formally

organized in 1852) was that of Christian P. and Nancy (Messick) Camery, the former the only War of 1812 veteran buried here, and one of the very few in the whole county.

It is not known exactly when the Camerys came to Marshall county, but they farmed land near the northeast corner of what is now Saratoga, and chose Sugar Grove cemetery as their family burial space. Both parents, and four sons and one daughter, together with several grandchildren, are buried on three lots here: the parents, Christian P. Camery (May 8, 1790-March 11, 1874) and Nancy (Messick) Camery (Jan. 30, 1801-April 5, 1883) have on their lot the tallest monument in the cemetery, an imposing needle-type Barre granite monument over 10 feet in height.

They had 10 children: John F. (1823-1896), (his wife: Clementine (Tribbett) (1832-1910) and a daughter, Amanda Jane (1854-1934) are buried here)—most of their living descendants are in the Kewanee community now; James (1825-1911), who went to Toledo, Iowa; Christian P. Jr., (1829-1910) who went to Traer, Iowa; Isaac Walter (1831-1920) (his wife: Ellen M. (Kellogg) (1840-1919), parents of Miss Nellie Camery and Mrs. John Morse of Henry, and grandparents of Miss Mae Ebaugh, also of Henry (they have their eldest son, Justin, buried in Sugar Grove (1865-1873); David (1833 or 1834-1907, but where buried is not known to this writer at the moment); J. Morgan (1835-1861, buried in Sugar Grove); Elijah S. (1836-1910) (his wife: Isabel (Brown) (1844-1926)—formerly Henry residents, but no local living descendants; Samuel (1839-1880) and his wife Elizabeth (Collings) (1847-1917), both buried in Sugar Grove; Mary E. (1841—date of death not in our records), wife of LaFayette Applen (1834-1903), both buried in Sugar Grove; and Amanda Jane (1845-1940), wife of Fred Raymond, Jr. (1842-1933), both buried in Henry City. It is interesting to note that from the birth of the father (1790) to the death of the youngest child (who lived to the remarkable age of 95) in 1940, a span of 150 years intervened. Few families can match this.

The Burt Family

Another family which 'deserves special mention, although now almost completely extinct in the area, is the once large and prominent Burt family, newspaper publishers in Henry and farmers in Whitefield for three generations.

This family's only descendant still living in Henry (of her generation), Mrs. Burtha (Burt) Quinn, kindly loaned us her entire tabulation of the family, which goes back eight generations beyond her to a Henry Burt, who came from England to Roxbury, Mass., over 300 years ago.

The local branch, three of five children of Asa Burt, Jr. and Sarah (Stebbins), came here in the 1840's from Hartford, Conn. (though originally from Suffield, Conn.), two sons to farm the then newly-opened Whitefield land, and the daughter to teach school. They were: Asa III, who never married, (1802-1880), buried in this cemetery; George Burt,

Sr. (1806-1888) and his wife Jerusha (Spencer) (1800-1880), also both buried here; and Sarah S. (1812-1890) who became the wife of Robert B. Minier (1808-1894), both also buried here.

All of the Burts' later generations were descended from George Burt, Sr., via four of his five children, all born at Hartford, Conn., and all youngsters when the family came to Whitefield.

John Spencer Burt, the eldest (1834-1912) founded the former Henry Times, a strongly Democratic newspaper, and his son Robert Freece Burt (1869-1943) continued in his father's footsteps for some years after the latter's passing—his widow, a Henry girl, formerly Elizabeth Smith, still resides at an advanced age in Peoria.

George Burt, Jr., as a young man, became associated with Henry's pioneer newspaper as a member of the firm of Spencer, Burdick, and Burt, publishers, and eventually became its sole owner. Published for many years as the Henry Republican, with his son, George A. Burt succeeding him, it is now known as the Henry News-Republican, with 106 years of continuous journalistic service to the community behind it. George Burt, Jr. died July 16, 1932, having reached the remarkable age of 96. His wife, Cornelia Ann (Burt) Blake, a distant cousin, died in 1895 at 63; George A. Burt, second of their three children, died in 1948 at 77. A daughter, Mrs. Frank (Anna Burt) Jenks, is still living, at an advanced age, in Savanna, Ill. The third, another son, died in infancy. (The deceased members of this branch of the family are all buried in the Henry City cemetery.)

The third child, Elizabeth Reeve Burt, died July 1, 1863 at the age of 26, and is buried in Sugar Grove. Twin son and daughter, Clarence E. and Cornelia E. (Mrs. George W. Losee; they left this area for Lake City, Iowa, many years ago), completed the family.

All the local living descendants of the Burt family come from Clarence E. Burt (1840-1925) and his wife Maria L. (Waldron) (1842-1918): Lucy E. (Mrs. Benson E.) Crum, and Mary Annetta ("Nettie") (Mrs. Edward J.) Metcalf both passed away in recent years; Dr. Clarence E. Burt, Jr., still lives in Michigan; Burtha M. (Mrs. Ed) Quinn lives in Henry; James S. (buried in Henry City) and Abbie Belle (buried in Sugar Grove) complete the family.

Other Prominent Families

To give a complete tabulation of all the families which used Sugar Grove as their burying-ground would sound like a "Who's Who" volume of Whitefield history and biography.

Our only reason for giving as much detail on the four we have, is the fact that they account for a high percentage of Sugar Grove burials, were among its earliest pioneer settlers, and also, that we had the material available for so doing—thanks to several living members of those families who kindly furnished us with it!

Arriving about the same time as the Burts was the Horace Spencer family, several of whom lie buried in Sugar Grove. Indeed, the most recent burial in it was Miss Lucy Spencer of Geneseo, in 1952,

and there is a possibility that one more, very aged, member of this family may be interred there.

Josiah Clawson, whose wife was Elizabeth Gregory, appears to have been the oldest person buried in the cemetery (Jan. 13, 1770-April 11, 1839, his obituary says, but his monument says Dec. 15, 1769-April 14, 1839). His son Thomas (1822-1865) and the latter's wife Lorey (1827-1865) are also buried here. Another son, John Clawson (1811-1902) and his wife, Ellen Gregory (1820-1896) were the progenitors of most of this family's living descendants hereabouts, which include the following great-grandchildren: Gerald C. Wabel, Mildred (Mrs. Emeil) Nilson, Marian (Mrs. Theodore A.) Rinehart, and Berniece (Mrs. Lawrence) King of Rockford, Ill.

Fountains, Vails, Trues

Other prominent families which used Sugar Grove cemetery include the William Fountain, John VanSickle Vail, and Arthur True families.

William Fountain (1803-1891) and his wife Jane (McGinnis) (1813-1891) have two of their seven children buried with them here: William Henry, who died at Louisville, Ky., a member of the 96th Illinois infantry, on Dec. 16, 1862, at 21, and Milton (1834-1899). A sister, Hannah (1817-1858), wife of George W. Ewalt, who remarried and left Whitefield, and several of their children, are all also buried in Sugar Grove.

One of the Sugar Grove residents who early took a great interest in the welfare of the cemetery, and helped materially with its physical features was John VanSickle Vail, grandfather of L. Gertrude (Vail) Higgs, who passed away about two years ago, and who gave us a great deal of valuable information about this cemetery and many of the people buried in it, through a most pleasant correspondence lasting several years, although we never did meet personally in all that time.

Several entries in Mr. Vail's very interesting diary, which he kept up daily for almost 30 years, have to do with Sugar Grove: on Oct. 3, 1860, he helped survey part of it (probably dividing in into lots); on Oct. 22, 1860, he helped collect money for fencing it; and Dec. 8, 1860, spent the whole day helping to erect the fence.

Other entries made that same fall and winter seem to indicate that at first, it was a rather loosely-managed proposition, but on April 2, 1861, he gave Harrison Gregory (Sr.) some money to get a "book to keep the graveyard record in."

Later on in the diary, he records on July 20, 1866, collecting the sum of \$2.00 (three donations of 50 cents each, one of 15 cents, and his own 35 cents to make up the whole \$2.00) to pay for digging a grave in Sugar Grove cemetery for a John Gordon, apparently an indigent resident of the neighborhood—his grave was never marked.

Has a Trust Fund For Maintenance

More lots were laid off in the cemetery on Sept. 25, 1860, and Vail helped with both the actual surveying and part of the expense of the remainder. Other entries in the next few years mention trimming brush.

mowing, fence repairing, and other chores, in which other neighborhood residents are sometimes mentioned. On Sept. 10, 1885, John Gregory, John A. Spencer (Vail's son-in-law), and Clarence E. Burt (Mrs. Quinn's father), were elected trustees. (There is still a board of trustees functioning, which accounts for the satisfactory condition the cemetery is kept in. Frank Clift, Harry Nilson, Guy Wilson, and Keith Blackburn are the ones who usually take care of the work, or hire others with income from the cemetery's trust fund, to do it.)

Vail had a son, Joseph Randall Vail (died Aug. 9, 1875, at 35), buried here, who served as adjutant of the 47th Illinois infantry division in the Civil War.

Also to be mentioned among prominent area families formerly using this cemetery is the Arthur True family, still fairly well represented in the Henry community and some others nearby. Arthur True (1824-1829) and his wife, Sophronia Abigail (Darling) (1823-1903) both lie buried here, together with several of their 12 children, who were: Mary A. (Mrs. Abram T.) Shurts (mother of Maude (Mrs. Frederick C.) Willett); Harriet A. (Mrs. Laban H.) Cox, whose son Charles was buried in the fall of 1957 in Henry—Laban was a Civil War soldier, and died May 14, 1884, from surgical shock involved in the amputation of a war-wounded leg; Huldah J. (Mrs. Elliott) Bunch; Albert (and his wife, Mary Ellen (Culton), parents of the late Ora May (Mrs. Charles A.) Salisbury, and Harry True of Peoria); Ellen (Mrs. James) Patterson; William M. (and his wife, Susan E. (Smith), parents of Mrs. Izantha Daniels and Fred True, both of Henry); John Wesley True (1856-1914), buried in Sugar Grove; Caroline A. (Mrs. George) Shurts, mother of the late LeRoy and Harry B. Shurts; Ruth Alma (1860-1862), buried in Sugar Grove; Alice E., wife of William O. Applegate, and later of John Fraley, and mother of C. Louis Applegate, Henry's efficient and congenial waterworks superintendent; Charles B. (1865-1928) and finally, Sarah Emma (1867-1868), both buried in Sugar Grove.

A brother of Arthur True, William True, buried a 22-year old bride and an infant son in Sugar Grove in 1861, and 16 years later, another infant daughter by his second wife.

More Sugar Grove Families

Still other well-known area families using Sugar Grove include the William Nichols Stout family, the husband and father, 1829-1903, the mother, Ruth Ann (Young), 1835-1914; and three of their children: Thomas N. (1855-1932), Lottie (Mrs. Charles A.) Terrell (1860-1909), and William S. (died 1916, age not given, but about 54). Miss Gertrude of Henry is this family's lone second-generation survivor.

Theophilus Wilson, father of Guy Wilson of Henry, and his parents, are buried in Sugar Grove. Samuel L. and Mary (Gregory) Clift, parents of Frank Clift; Elwood Smith, grandfather of a number of Henry residents; also David and Mary A. Duffield, who have many descendants living locally, are others. And of course, many we have not had space to mention, bring the total up to well over 200 burials.

CHAPTER VI

The ROWE and NOCK FARM Cemeteries

These two little farm burial plots, which hardly even merit the title of "cemeteries," are being considered together, in spite of the fact that they are about two miles apart, and in different townships, because they have quite a little in common. Buried in them are three men who rate as "genuine pioneers" of the Henry area, all coming to Henry in 1834, and among perhaps the first dozen or so white people to make homes here.

Henry's First Business House

Two of the three were brothers, William A. Rowe, Sr., and his younger brother Sampson Rowe (Sr.); the third was Charles Nock. The latter two men both married sisters, daughters of Major Elias Thompson, who was perhaps among the first half-dozen of Henry's earliest permanent settlers; published histories say he came here in the spring of 1833, and with his son David, opened the first two farms in Henry township, a part of the land now owned by the Rohm and Haas chemical company.

They also opened up Henry's first business house, a hotel, which stood between the present lock pond and what is still often called "Riviera park," and which also doubled as a church occasionally, as Thompson Sr. himself was a preacher (although unordained) of some note, as well as being a wild bee hunter, trapper, and a man skilled in several other trades, all of value to his status as a "real pioneer."

(After operating the hotel for some years, and also a part of his own farm as a "truck patch," raising vegetables for use in his hotel dining room, he sold out, and eventually went to California, where he died.)

Six Generations of Rowes

The following year marks the advent of the first of a family which now can boast of six consecutive generations in Henry township, all highly-valued and industrious citizens, mostly farmers, the large and influential Rowe family. Sampson Rowe, Sr., born about 1810 in the county of Cornwall, England, as a young, adventuresome lad of only 18 or so, made his way to the Henry area, liked its possibilities, and determined to settle here.

Published histories are not quite clear as to the events concerning the Rowe families—actually, the Rowe brothers, Sampson, Sr., and William A., Sr.—as to exactly when, and how, both landed in the Henry settlement; but by comparing notes in Ellsworth's "Records of the Olden Time" account, with those given by J. Spencer Burt in

his biographical sketch of Sampson T. Rowe (eldest son of William A. Rowe, Sr., and nephew of his namesake, Sampson, Sr.), published in 1907 ("Past and Present of Marshall and Putnam Counties," p. 292), it appears that William A. Rowe, Sr., (born in Cornwall, England, in 1809) and his bride of April, 1834, Harriet Peters, also a native of Cornwall, came to the States on a one-way honeymoon, proceeding direct to Cincinnati, Ohio, and arriving there in the probably the late summer of that same year.

Came to County in 1834

There they were met by William's younger brother Sampson, returning from his brief sojourn of that spring to Henry, the latter urging the former, as Burt puts it, "not to tarry in Ohio but to proceed directly to the Prairie State."

They did so, meeting en route, also bound for Marshall county, one Charles Nock; the three men, plus William Rowe's bride Harriet, journeyed together the remainder of the distance to Marshall county, arriving probably just before cold weather set in.

Charles Nock bought an already improved farm near the south end of what later became Henry township, described legally as the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (40 acres) of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, which some years later was split into triangular halves by the construction of the Peoria and Bureau Valley railroad (1854).

Its north boundary lay a mere rod or two south of the present Rowe Hill road (although for many years, up until about 13 or 14 years ago, the former course of State Rte. 29); its south boundary roughly approximated the creek which forms the outlet for the old "Merritt slough." (This land was for many years owned by the late Barnhard Meridian, and is presently farmed by his son William B. Meridian, who lives in the brick home in the angle formed by the two roads mentioned.)

Nock was about 24 years of age when he and the Rowe brothers came to Marshall county; his obituary in the Marshall County Courier, a fore-runner of the later Henry Republican and present Henry News-Republican, states that at his death, on Sept. 28, 1867, he was "about 57," which would have him born about 1810.

He came to Marshall county unmarried, and shortly afterward, married Eliza Ann Thompson, one of at least two daughters (and likely several others) of Major Elias Thompson, born as near as can be determined from her obituary, about 1818. No record of the date of their marriage exists in local records. So far as we know, they had no children, as none are mentioned in the obituary of either. (She passed away May 5, 1874.)

Although the new Henry City cemetery had been opened up in the spring of the year in which Nock died (1867), his burial took place, according to a custom in vogue for the first 40 years or so of early Marshall county history, in a location on his home farm. Although the stone which marked his grave (and also another for his

wife, who was also buried there some 5½ years later) is today, completely missing, it is believed that these graves were located along the east line of the property, roughly about midway between its northeast corner (where the highway junction is today) and the north bank of the "Merritt slough."

Two large cedars mark the spot where we have been told these two graves actually lie. This is the "Nock Farm Cemetery."

The Sampson Rowe Family

Although younger than his brother William A., Sr., by some six years or so, we shall try to trace the remainder of the life history first, of young Sampson Rowe, who was not quite so agriculturally-minded as the other two men.

It is reported that he built one of the first half-dozen frame buildings in the present business district of Henry, where later stood a "saloon," probably in what is now the 300 block on Edward street. At any rate, it soon became the seat of Henry's first post office, and Sampson Rowe is believed to have been Henry's first postmaster.

Meanwhile, he had married a second daughter of Major Elias Thompson, Emmeline. As to just how many children they had, no published records exist that have ever been found—his obituary (he died Dec. 14, 1878) merely states that there were "several". We know for sure of probably only two. William T. Rowe, probably born in the early 1840's, because he married, on Oct. 8, 1865, Mathilda Ann Kirk (who later, at Davenport, Ia., on April 19, 1874, re-married Hiram A. Earl); they had three children: Hattie (Mrs. George) Smith, who lived in Pontiac, Ill., and later married a Mr. Kettelle; William Henry (usually known locally as "Kirk-Billie" Rowe, probably to distinguish him from the three other William Rows hereabouts—his mother was a Kirk), accidentally killed in Omaha, Nebraska, during the 1899-1900 year-end holiday season; and Anna J., who married first, George W. Warren, of Whitefield, on Feb. 12, 1889. She, too, married a second time; in her brother's obituary, her name is given as Mrs. Anna Ulch, and her residence then as in Kansas, but her husband's name is not given.

Another son of Sampson and Emeline (Thompson) Rowe was John Bernard Rowe, born about 1847, married Olivia Loring, and died May 21, 1915, at Lansing, Kas., where they had resided probably much of their married life. They had six children, only three living at the time of the father's death: Charles Rowe, in Colorado; Ella Rowe Graham of Lansing, Kas.; and Margaret Rowe Young, Pittsburg, Kas.

The Sampson Rowe family left Henry and farmed for about 20 years in the Sugar Grove area in Whitefield, finally selling their holdings there, several years before the Civil War, and moving to Mercer county, Missouri, the center county of its Iowa-bounding tier, midway between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Here the wife and mother, Emeline (Thompson) Rowe, died and was buried. Shortly afterward, probably in the Civil War period or

soon after its close, Sampson Rowe (Sr.) left Missouri to return to Marshall county.

Married Sister-in-law

Several years after his first wife's death, on June 23, 1870, Sampson Rowe was married a second time, to his own widowed sister-in-law, Eliza Ann (Thompson) Nock. They were privileged to live together only four years—her death took place on May 5, 1874, and she was buried also in the little Nock Farm burial plot described earlier.

About a year later, Sampson Rowe married a third time, and once more, a Thompson (he must have liked the name!)—though she, Martha Ann (Agnew) Thompson, widow of William Henry Thompson (1826—1875, a Civil War veteran), was one, only by her first marriage. (We have never learned for sure if he was a son of Major Elias Thompson, though the presumption is rather strong—the latter left Henry in the 1840's to farm in Whitefield, though somewhat south of the actual Sugar Grove area, farming land in (probably) the south-east quarter of Section 15, or perhaps the adjoining southwest quarter of Section 14 to the east, now owned by Martin Bush.)

Sampson Rowe departed this life Dec. 14, 1878, and at his request, was also buried, with his second wife, Eliza Ann (Thompson) Nock Rowe, in the little Nock farm burial plot. (The third Mrs. Rowe, Martha Jane (Agnew) Thompson Rowe, survived until June 13, 1901, and was buried with her first husband, in Sugar Grove cemetery.)

The William A. Rowe Family

Sampson Rowe's next elder brother, William Abel Rowe, Sr., lost no time getting down to his business of farming, following his arrival in Marshall county in 1834. He selected a tract of government land in Section 13, Whitefield township, but found it not yet available for sale. Meanwhile, for a short time, he took up temporary quarters on a claim nearer the city. When the land he wanted was opened up for sale, he immediately claimed it, and commenced farming in dead earnest.

Burt's volume states that at the time of his death, he was the owner of 1,045 acres of rich Whitefield farm and timber land, mostly in Sections 13, 14, 23, and 24, much of the same land still being held in the Rowe name or by descendants.

(Sampson and William were the only two members of their family who came to the States. Their eldest brother John remained in England; probably the fourth son did also; but three of the four daughters of the family also left England, one for India (then a British colony), and another for Australia. This information comes from records in the possession of Mrs. Velma Rowe Bourdette, only surviving child of William A. Rowe's son Roger T. Rowe. They came from the parish in Cornwall where the parents lived, and were secured by Ormand Rowe, a cousin of hers.)

All ten of the children of William Abel (Sr.) and Harriet (Peters)

Rowe were born on the family homestead in Whitefield township. Their first home was a log cabin, not quite completed when their eldest son was born, and it is said that a heavy snow almost half-filled the house on a very stormy day in April when the young man arrived!

The Ten Children

The William A. Rowe's ten children were:

(1) Caroline, born March 10, 1836, married William Payne, went to Chariton, Iowa, where she died Feb. 26, 1900, and her husband on June 22, 1911. Three of their several children who grew to maturity were: Harriet (Klingner), Lillian (Browne), and Joseph. Several others died in infancy or childhood. None were ever known in this area, and all have departed this life some years ago. The father, William Payne, was a member of the Payne-Wikoff brick manufacturing concern in Section 12 of Whitefield, before leaving for Iowa.

(2) Sampson Taylor Rowe, born April 15, 1837, amid the snow-storm mentioned earlier; married Ellen Sarah Tidmarsh (born in England in 1848), farmed successfully a goodly part of the family's farm land holdings, and died May 4, 1920; his wife had passed away just under two years previous, in July, 1918. Their seven children are all well known locally, having lived practically all their several lives in this area: William A. II (deceased); Edward Marshall (deceased); Ann Elizabeth (Mrs. Jacob) Kocher (deceased); Henry Sampson (deceased); Charles Garfield of Hannibal, Mo., the only one to leave Marshall county permanently; Francis Taylor of Henry; and Eugene Lloyd, also of Henry.

(3) Mary Ann Rowe, born July 21, 1838, married William Manchester, and went to Arlington, Iowa, where she died March 30, 1911. Their five children, none ever having lived in this area, were: William Manchester Jr., Harriet (Talcott), Ellsworth R., Mary Ella (Chapman) and Charles.

(4) Roger Taylor Rowe, born July 11, 1840, married Mary Augusta Blossom, daughter of the Hiram Blossoms, others of Whitefield's earliest settlers, (born Feb. 2, 1849), and also were highly successful farmers, giving the Rowe Hill road its long-standing name.

He died Oct. 16, 1913; she on March 31, 1925. Of their ten children only five grew to maturity, the other five dying in childhood. They were: Mary Odell (usually known as Della), first wife of Dr. Homer Swift; William W., who died in March, 1932; Elzy D., died in 1899; Grace U., died in 1883; Ida May, died in 1880; Jeanie Blossom, died in 1881; Dr. Bert Roger Rowe, died in 1915; Freddie Orin, died in 1883; Ivan J., died in 1890; and Velma L. (Mrs. Charles) Bourdette, of Henry, the only survivor of the entire ten.

(5) William Arthur Rowe, born Jan. 19, 1842 and died July 2, 1926; his wife, Adda J. Holcomb, died May 7, 1920. They had no children.

Younger Ones Leave Area

(6) Emmeline Harriet Rowe, born Nov. 11, 1843, married George Harvey Harris, (born Sept. 27, 1844); both are buried in Whitefield Center cemetery. She died May 21, 1881, he on Nov. 22, 1903. Their children were: William Harvey Harris, James A., Adelaide (Deichman), Charles Edgar, and Edith (Strawn). Several of these eventually found their way to Oklahoma. (A granddaughter, Ruth, has recently returned to Henry as Mrs. Leslie L. Downey.)

(7) John Peter Rowe, born April 19, 1844, married Maggie E. Gordon of Sugar Grove, and left here for Sharon, Kansas, where he died April 19, 1921, his 77th birthday. Of their two children, Albert W. and Neva (Starkey), only the latter survives, in Salem, Oregon.

(8) Ellen Maria Rowe, born Feb. 17, 1847, married Robinson M. Ward, and went to Lamont, Iowa, where she died March 9, 1909. Three of their children who grew to maturity were: Luella (Tromblee), Arthur, and Grace (Williams). None were ever known here.

(9) Elizabeth Rebecca Rowe, born Jan. 12, 1849, married Jabez Manchester, and lived in the vicinity of Clinton, Iowa. She died June 17, 1874, at Brush Creek, Fayette Co., Iowa. They have one surviving son, Ellsworth H. Manchester, and had lost a child in infancy.

(10) Joseph Henry Rowe, born Nov. 19, 1850 and died at the age of 9, in December, 1859. He was buried near the top of the bluff on his father's farm, where the latter was also buried at his death, about four years later, Aug. 19, 1863. These are the only two burials in the "Rowe Farm" burial plot. (William A.'s wife, Harriet, died in April, 1886, and was buried where she passed away, at Chariton, Iowa, where she had lived with her daughter, Mrs. Caroline Payne, after Mr. Rowe's death.)

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CHAPTER VII

The HOYT and OLD HENRY Cemeteries

These two cemeteries as they exist today, separated by a concrete block fence, were originally a single cemetery, divided only slightly over 40 years ago.

Even so, the actual beginnings of the single unit are somewhat shrouded in the "vagueness of antiquity," for the simple reason that it, like most others of these very old burying-grounds, was never officially set aside, conveyed, or dedicated for public use as such.

As near as we can tell from what published material is available on the subject—and even the date is uncertain—this plot of ground, originally comprising some three to four acres, was (more or less) donated for public use as a cemetery, by Daniel N. Blood, Sr., who owned the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8 in Henry township, on which the cemetery is located (near the center of the east edge of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the quarter-section, about a quarter-mile north of the Rte. 29-Sugar Grove road intersection).

It, too, can probably best be dated from the earliest marked burials in it, though probably with nothing more than approximate accuracy, because it likewise, may contain some very early burials that were transferred from elsewhere.

Probably First Used About 1842

Quite likely, the earliest-dated stone in it did come from outside the confines of the cemetery: William W. Pool, 7-months-old son of Simeon and Elizabeth D. Pool, (who were among the earliest settlers in the county) date of death, Aug. 8, 1836.

Our reason for so presuming is, that 5½ years elapsed between that, and the next-earliest marked burial, William Henry Pendleton, 22-months-old son of Rev. H. G. and Elizabeth (Hart) Pendleton, who died in February, 1842. The third burial was that of Henry C. Woodward, Jr., 12-year-old son of Henry C. (Sr.) and Mary D. Woodward, who died Aug. 31, 1842.

The first of these three is in the uninclosed portion of the original (whole) cemetery; the other two, although they had no Hoyt blood lines in their ancestry, are in the inclosed (Hoyt) portion of the cemetery as it stands today.

Heavy Use in 1840's, 1850's

That the cemetery had its beginnings in either 1842 or in the next two or three years following it, is quite clear, from the number of marked burials in it in those years, which still remain in the cemetery; for in considering these things, we are required to take

into account the fact that after its "abandonment" when the newer Henry City cemetery was first opened up for public use (May 10, 1867) large numbers of graves were transferred from the former to the latter in the succeeding 20 or so years.

(The total number of graves which bear pre-May, 1867, dates of death on their stones, in the newer cemetery, is 131. Of these, however, some are known to have been transferred into it from other cemeteries than the Old Henry-Hoyt graveyard; it would be safe to estimate that at least 100 of these did come from the latter.)

Studies from Statistics

A tabulation of some of these graves—though taking into account only stones with legible dates on them, our only possible guide, would be about as follows:

Year of Death	In Inclosed (Hoyt) Portion	In Uninclosed Portion	Pre-1867 Burials in Henry Cemetery	Total
1842	2	—	—	2
1843	1	—	—	1
1844	2	—	—	2
1845	3	—	—	3
1846	3	—	—	3
1847	1	—	—	1
1848	2	—	1*	3
1849	8	2	3	13
1850	4	2	—	6
1851	5	2	4	11
1852	3	4	4	11
1853	3	—	4	7
1854	9	9	7	25
1855	—	4	9	13
1856	—	2	6	8
1857	—	—	1	1
1858	1	—	2	3
1859	2	2	2	6
1860	—	3	5	8

* This one burial is known to have been transferred from the Lacon cemetery, shortly after 1867, along with several others in the same family.

Several interesting things are brought out in a study of this table: a) the irregularity of the annual death rate in a small community, a condition which still exists; b) the steady growth of Henry's population, which by the time of its incorporation as a city (1854) had reached the 700 mark; c) as time went on (still several years before the opening of the newer Henry City cemetery), some of the older graves were beginning to be neglected, while many of the newer ones, in the "old" Henry cemetery (still including the present Hoyt portion, as of the time we are considering) were being moved to the newer one; this was due to the fact that families and rela-

tives of many of the left-unmoved burials had already left the community for elsewhere by 1867.

Serious Epidemic of "Black Diphtheria" in 1854

d) One more interesting study comes from facts brought out in the above table: note the unusually large number (25) of burials in 1854, almost twice the number of any other year given in it. From the very fortunate circumstance that prevailed in the days of which we are writing, that full dates of death were uniformly given on stones, we are able to make some important deductions.

Henry's population did not receive any sudden "boost" in 1854 that would have doubled the number of deaths taking place in an average year; and although the following year (1855) tied for second-high spot at 13 deaths tabulated above, the subsequent recession back to "normal" is quite evident. Undoubtedly there was a definite reason for such a "peak," that was not repeated until many years later, when Henry's population had grown to where 25 was a "normal" death toll in a year's time.

Noting the actual dates of death as given on these 1854 stones brings out the interesting fact that 17 of the 25 deaths took place in a seven-week period which began in the final few days of August, and ended about mid-November. Of these 17, seven were children, and ten were adults. It strongly indicated a serious epidemic of some sort.

Curious to know the answer, we began inquiring around a bit. Shortly we learned it, from a third-generation descendant of a family living in Henry at that time: a vicious epidemic of "black diphtheria" struck Henry, and was responsible for most if not all of those 17 deaths tabulated here, and also a few buried in the only Catholic cemetery hereabouts in existence at that time, the Meridian-Weis-Apfel cemetery a few miles down-river from the city. (The mortality rate of "black diphtheria" in those days was well over 50 per cent.)

Three War Veterans Buried Here

The original plot occupied by this cemetery contains burials of three war veterans, all, fortunately, within the inclosed portion now known as the Hoyt cemetery. All have interesting stories behind them.

For space distribution reasons, we shall consider them in reverse order of dates of death, the most recent first. He was Nathan Dayton, whose widow, Mary, survived until 1914, and is well remembered by many Henry residents. None of their descendants remain in this vicinity, to our knowledge.

His burial in the Hoyt cemetery in November, 1893, some 26 years after the opening of the newer Henry City cemetery, was explained in his obituary in the (then) Henry Republican, as being due to the circumstance that the family could not even afford to purchase burial space in the new cemetery—that in the old one was never charged for. Mr. Dayton, who died Nov. 14, 1893, had been an invalid

for a number of years prior to his death, and the family could not make ends meet on the usual soldier's pension—Mrs. Dayton had to take in washings to eke out this slender income into something faintly resembling a minimum living for the family.

Several persons we have contacted for information about the Dayton family, tell us that they remember helping them out with furniture, clothing, and other items; they were universally liked in Henry, and people begrudged them nothing, needy as they were, through no fault of their own.

Mrs. Dayton died May 23, 1914, and was also buried in the Hoyt cemetery. Two simple marble upright slabs mark their graves, about the least expensive that could be purchased at that time.

Andersonville Prison Victim

The next previous war veteran burial to Nathan Dayton's, was that of a young man, only 22 years of age, who had the misfortune to be captured by the Confederates, and to conclude his short life in the infamous Andersonville (Ga.) prison, about which a recent book has been published, and widely read.

He was James E. Elston, a member of Company E, 112th Illinois Infantry regiment, the only one we know of from Henry—and that was likely because it was made up of men largely from Stark and Henry counties.

It was mustered at Peoria on Sept. 20, 1862, and saw plenty of action in Kentucky and Tennessee; some of its members were among the units which raised Confederate General Bragg's siege of Chattanooga, Tenn., and then took part in the later battles of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and the Northwest Georgia campaign.

Still later, the whole regiment joined in Sherman's march from Atlanta to Savanna, Ga., well remembered by all concerned.

Twins Buried Together

Somewhere along its route of march and action—likely in one of the early battles of the Georgia campaign in the late spring of 1864—young Elston was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville, where he died on June 21, 1864, at the age of 22 years, 4 months, and 4 days (according to his stone, also prison records which were eventually published), which establishes his date of birth as Feb. 17, 1842.

At the bottom of the same badly-weathered small marble headstone which marks his (possible—see below) grave in the old Henry cemetery (though in the inclosed Hoyt portion of it), is another inscription, for a twin sister, Nancy A. Elston, who died Feb. 6, 1853, at 10 years, 11 months, 19 days, just 11 days before her 11th birthday, which would have been Feb. 17, 1853.

(We have been told, though not on unimpeachable authority, that James Elston is not actually buried here—but his grave remains in the Andersonville prison grave-yard; that the stone is only a memorial. We do have some reason to doubt that, however, as his name appears on many of the earliest lists of veteran's graves decorated

by the former G.A.R. post in Henry. We think he is buried here.)

The Mystery Deepens

While seeking information about this young man, we remembered that we had once heard from Mrs. Tessa (Baker) Skinger Haun that she had Elston ancestry, and wondered if perhaps he might have been a relative of hers.

Her mother, Elizabeth (Elston) Baker, wife of the late Josiah Baker, had told her of a brother (?) who had died in the Andersonville prison, that the family had originally lived in the region where a part of James Elston's 112th Illinois Infantry regiment had been recruited (Stark county, near Wyoming), and that her mother had had a sister Nancy.

However, several points in the story did not quite agree: Elizabeth (Elston) Baker was a daughter of Jesse and Hannah Elston; James and Nancy Elston were twin son and daughter of E. E. and M. Elston. Also, the Nancy buried in this cemetery died in 1853; Mrs. Haun's mother's sister Nancy married and went to Nebraska, where she spent her married life, died, and was buried. Obviously, James was not a brother, nor this particular Nancy a sister, of Mrs. Haun's mother Elizabeth. Who were they, then?

A Possible Solution

Mrs. Haun states that her grandfather had a brother who lived and raised his family around Cambridge, in Henry county, still within the territory from which the 112th Illinois was recruited. But what would compel that family to bury two children in Henry in Marshall county, when none of them had ever lived here?

We rather suspect that this will eventually prove the solution to the apparent mystery of who James E. and Nancy A. Elston were: not children, not nephew and niece, but very much younger brother and sister of Mrs. Haun's grandfather Jesse Elston, who after their parents' deaths, probably made their home with Jesse and Hannah, and seemed more like brother and sister to the latter's own children, than uncle and aunt. (In those days of much larger families than are usually found today, often as much as 25 years elapsed from eldest to youngest. People frequently had uncles and aunts younger than they were.)

These Elstons Did Live in Henry

If what we have suggested in the preceding paragraph was the case, the presence of these two graves—particularly Nancy's—in a Henry township cemetery is easily explainable.

Mrs. Haun says she knows for a certainty that her mother was born in Stark county (on Oct. 20, 1847), but that as a young child, did live for "several years" in Henry. (She and Josiah Baker were married on Dec. 24, 1871, but that could have taken place after the family left Henry for the Wyoming-Castleton area—Mrs. Haun did not know just when they did so, however.) Nancy A. Elston died in Henry in 1853, when Mrs. Elizabeth Baker was but 5½ years old—

and at that time was living in Henry with her parents.

It was a good nine years later—in the early spring of 1862—when James E. Elston was inducted into the Union army—almost certainly in Stark county. But undoubtedly the reason his remains were (if they actually were) finally interred here, was, the fact of a twin sister, also unmarried, being buried in Henry, while the family did live here.

Does Have Relatives Living in Henry

Only one Union soldier by the name of Elston is listed as ever having died in the Andersonville prison: this very James E. Elston, of the 112th Illinois infantry. So, he could not have been a brother of Mrs. Elizabeth (Elston) Baker—he must have been of another relationship, either a very young uncle, or, far less likely, at the most distant, a cousin.

At any rate, James Elston of the 112th Illinois regiment, the Andersonville prison, and what was once "Lot 68" of the South block of the "old Henry" cemetery (according to Illinois Roll of Honor records), now inclosed as an incidental part of the (since 1914 or 1915) Hoyt cemetery, does have living relatives in Marshall county: Mrs. Haun, and three children of the latter's eldest brother, the late Frank W. Baker and his widow, Mrs. Retta Baker of Saratoga; Charles Baker of Saratoga; Mrs. Stanford Rickey of Toluca; and Mrs. Otto Trobaugh of Henry.

Two George Lockes, Cousins

The third Civil War veteran buried in this/these cemetery/ies (for we are still considering the original joint, though later separated, nature of the set-up) was George Washington Locke, born Feb. 25, 1838, died May 24, 1863, though where, how, and under what circumstances, we have never learned. The date of his death could mean any of about three things: killed in action, died of wounds, or died of disease—for that date was, of course, during the war period itself.

He was a member of the same regiment, the 47th Illinois infantry, as was his far-better-known cousin, George Monroe Locke, who survived him by close to 63 years. He was about three years the elder of the two. Because of the proximity of his birth date to that of the first president of the nation, it is rather easy to guess why he bore the name he did.

Born in New York City

George Washington Locke was not a part of the Hoyt family, although closely associated with it. He was a son, probably the second such, of John and Catherine (Tucker) Locke, both of whom lived at the time of his birth, in New York City, where his father, the sixth of eleven children of John Locke (Sr.) and Mercy (Dame) Locke, was a carpenter by trade. (The latter were both natives of New Hampshire.)

John and Catherine (Tucker) Locke had seven children, according to the former's obituary published after his death, in Henry, on

Sept. 4, 1878. However, the wife and mother had previously passed away, probably in New York City, in 1848. How John Locke and his family happened to come west to Henry will be related a little further on in the story.

One other child of this family is buried in the newer Henry City cemetery, Kate E. (Mrs. James G.) Hull, who died Jan. 6, 1871. Their married life together lasted only about 4½ years. She lies buried on a lot owned by a nephew, John Alonzo Locke, presently living in Wenona, whose first wife, Eugenia L. (Pulsipher) Locke, who died Dec. 30, 1919, is also buried there.

There are two other children of John and Catherine (Tucker) Locke buried in what is now the Hoyt cemetery: Sarah Elizabeth and Franklin Alonzo Locke. No dates of birth or death appear for them on what markings their graves have, which are merely names inscribed in the proper places on the concrete coping which surrounds the northerly lot of the two.

Two or Three Veterans' Graves Moved Out

While considering Civil War veterans' graves in this cemetery, perhaps we should pause a moment to note at least the names of two, or possibly three, additional ones, whose graves were moved as a part of the extensive exodus of graves which took place following the opening of the newer Henry City cemetery, as noted previously, on May 10, 1867: Roswell M. West, William H. Atkins, and Jesse F. Underwood.

All three now lie buried in the present Soldiers' block of Section C-South of the newer cemetery. The first two named were moved probably within the first 20 or so years after 1867; the last-named, we have learned from some local residents who actually helped with it, less than 30 years ago (about 1929, as near as their memories can place it).

We know very little about any of the three—their deaths all occurred in the period before newspaper files began to be kept in Henry. West's date of death, which we do not know from any other source than the Honor Roll published by the state Veterans commission, is said to have been Feb. 25, 1862. The only other reference we have ever found to this family is a very brief obituary of his mother, Mrs. Roxana P. West, a native of Vermont, who died in Henry on Dec. 9, 1865, at the age of 65. She was the widow of a clergyman, denomination not given but presumably Congregational, as most Vermonters were of that particular one; two other children, a son George and a daughter, Mrs. Burnett, survived her; and the story, in one of the very earliest issues on file in Henry, refers to the "tragic circumstances" of the death of her other son Roswell "about two years ago." (Actually, it was nearly four years earlier, if our date is correct.)

No hint, however, is given of what the "tragic circumstances" may have been. Dying in February, 1862, could mean several things:

killed in action, died of wounds, or died of disease. He, too, as so many others of Henry and Whitefield's Civil War soldier lads, was a member of the 47th Illinois infantry; he was a private in Company D, along with Ransom Gregory, George Monroe Locke (the company's Sergeant-Major), Jacob A. Melick, and John C. Townsend, its captain.

Though we do not know for sure, we have an idea that Mrs. Roxana P. West lies in an unmarked grave in the uninclosed portion of the old cemetery.

No Record of Atkins, Underwood

The second of three named, William H. Atkins, we have never been able to find the slightest published records about. However, the name itself is well represented in the Putnam area. Perhaps some of these people would know some information about this veteran since Henry and Putnam were as closely associated 90 years ago as they are today, and his grave may have been moved into the Henry City cemetery's Soldiers' block from somewhere in that area. We do not know for certain if this grave came from the "old Henry" cemetery or not.

The third-named, we are sure, did—we have been told by two men who helped move it, that the late Taylor Smith, well known in Henry as a former sexton of the newer cemetery, and two of his sons, did the actual moving of Jesse F. Underwood's grave from a location near the south end of the uninclosed portion of the old cemetery, to its present resting place in the newer cemetery's Soldiers' block, the last (until very recently) actual burial in it, about 1929.

(Our reason for so dating it is as follows: Henry City cemetery uses a positive, fool-proof system of grave identification, the only one in this area we know of which does: the installing of a numbered brick at the foot end of every grave in it, regardless of type, origin, or date of death. The number of the brick marking Jesse F. Underwood's grave is B28. Although these numbers were not then being assigned in strict serial order, the "B" series was being used in 1929-30-31, the portion of the series in which that number occurs, probably mostly in 1929.)

Underwood Came From Sangamon County

Just why and how Jesse F. Underwood happened to have been buried in the old Henry cemetery originally, is something we have never been able to determine. He was not a native of these parts; he was born in the area from which he enlisted, which is given in state veterans' records as Loami, in Sangamon county, Illinois, about 15 miles southwest of Springfield. These records state that he was 18 years of age when he enlisted on April 19, 1864 (which would make him born in 1845 or early 1846), a farmer, a private in Company B of the 30th Illinois infantry, was severely wounded on June 13, 1864, and discharged from service on June 29 of the same year at Louisville, Ky., for that reason.

His death took place within a few months after those dates.

but where, we have never learned.

There were Underwoods in Whitefield township at that time: a John D. Underwood, who lived and operated a combination farm-blacksmith shop-tavern on what is now the Western avenue road, close to the exact center of the township. Both he and his second wife, Olly (formerly Mrs. Lewis Martin—each was the other's second spouse), are buried in the Henry City cemetery, though were moved there from elsewhere about 60 years ago, by the late Jay Barnes, from the now non-existent Burson cemetery in Whitefield. The name is far from being a common one; there may have been a close association somewhere, but if so, Jesse F. Underwood would have had to be a son of John D. Underwood's first marriage. (The latter and the former Mrs. Martin were married in about 1849, several years after Jesse Underwood's birth.)

At any rate, the removal of these graves from a badly unkempt cemetery to one which will always be assured of excellent care, was a most commendable thing.

The Hoyt Family

Thanks to the foresightedness of George Monroe Locke, his sister, Mrs. Eugene H. Hutchins, and several members of the Hoyt family, the present Hoyt cemetery will never become the shambles that the portion of the old cemetery surrounding it on three sides has, and will quite likely always remain. Some 45 years ago, these people contributed generously to a fund which not only fenced the inclosed portion, but also left a sizeable fund for perpetual care, which is now administered by the Henry City cemetery board, and its sexton, Charles Johnson of Henry, takes as meticulous care of this little cemetery as he does the much larger city cemetery. Hoyt and Locke descendants can well be proud of their record in providing the necessary funds to make this possible. It sets a good example which should be followed by others all over the county.

In this connection, it should be mentioned that this once very large and influential family were among the early pioneers in the Henry area, and left behind them a remembrance of being conscientious, honest, God-fearing, and thoughtful citizens who were a credit in every respect to their adopted community.

Of this large relationship, the only remaining member, to our knowledge, who calls Henry his home, is Gordon H. Downey, a member of the fifth generation of the Hoyts, whose three children also live in Henry. One other, John A. Locke, still lives at an advanced age in Wenona, though a member of the Locke family which had no Hoyt blood lines in it—as noted, he was a grandson of John Locke via his first marriage; his second was to his widowed sister-in-law, Hannah Langford Hoyt (Mrs. Silas) Locke.

Came to Henry in 1835

The Ephraim Hoyt, Sr., family were among the first two dozen or less, settlers to come to Henry. Although published records do not

quite agree as to the actual date, it appears to have been about 1835. At any rate, they built the first frame house in Henry, which was located on what is now School street, near the Henry end of the Illinois river bridge.

We learn this from a quite lengthy and most interesting letter received from Mrs. Latha (Locke) Nesbit, of Winona Lake, Ind., a great-granddaughter, who does not identify the house itself, but believes it is still standing. She relates that some years ago, it was about to be dorn down, but upon coming to its framework, it was found to have been of black walnut, pinned together, and the owners thereup decided to restore the house, with new siding.

Another "first" scored by this structure was, that it housed Henry's first Sunday school, or "Sabbath school" as such were then called. Seats were formed by laying planks across sawed logs, and folded comforters helped the youngsters while away the long hours spent in learning the Larger Catechism, all 500 questions and answers, which Mrs. Nesbit says her father, George Monroe Locke, remembered up until his death at 84, in 1926.

Hoyts Had Many Children

The Hoyt family seems to have originated in the vicinity of Utica, N. Y., or at least, lived there at one time; their eldest daughter, Hannah, who later was married successively to two Locke brothers, was born at Remsen, N. Y., not far from Utica, on Feb. 5, 1807, and was a young lady when the family came to Henry.

Among the family members were a number of children, some grown and married when the family emigrated west; we are not exactly certain of several of them as regards their exact order, but those of whom we know, from being buried locally and as given us by Mrs. Nesbit and her cousin Mrs. Ella Jenness, were as follows:

Chauncey (1804-1860, buried in Henry City); Matthew (1803-1875, buried in Hoyt cemetery); Hannah (1807-1902, also buried in Hoyt); Ephraim, Jr. (1814 or 1815-1899, buried in Hoyt); S. C. (name not known, not buried hereabouts, but has one child buried in Hoyt); George L. (1820-1854, buried in Hoyt); Eliphalet B. (1823-1854, buried in Hoyt); and William H., not buried hereabouts, but has an infant daughter buried in Hoyt.

(There were doubtless others in the family than these; from the gaps in the known years of birth, we suspect that perhaps they left some infants and/or children buried in New York state before coming to Henry.)

By the third generation, the family had begun to scatter widely. Although most of the actual burials in the Hoyt cemetery after May, 1867, were Hoyts, almost all of even these were brought in from elsewhere. Insofar as dates on stones can tell us, apparently the last burial in it was in 1922, that of Miss Hattie Hoyt of Chicago, one of the younger ones of a family of (probably) twelve children of Ephraim, Jr., and Frances Jane (Brown) Hoyt; the next burial pre-

ceding hers was that of a much older sister, Mrs. John G. Ferguson (Clara Hoyt), who died Feb. 27, 1921.

There may possibly in time be one further, and likely final, burial in it, an elderly lady presently living in Chicago.

Two Locke Families

The only portion of the once large Hoyt family which populated Henry to any great extent in more recent years, was one of two Locke families, that of Silas Locke, the younger of the two brothers, born Nov. 14, 1807, at Barrington, N. H.

He did not come directly to Henry, but his wife's obituary states that he was living in Victoria, in Knox county, Illinois, previous to their marriage on May 19, 1840, when Hannah, who was about the same age, had been in Henry for four to five years.

They had four children: (1) George Monroe Locke (April 20, 1840-March 7, 1926, well remembered locally, whose daughter Mrs. Nesbit has supplied us with much of this information; another, the late Mrs. Miriam Hannah Corbin, wife of Rev. Paul L. Corbin, was a missionary in China until her death in March, 1928); (2) Silas Locke, Jr.; (3) Washington B. (buried in Hoyt); and (4) Mercy Victoria, who became the wife of Eugene Horace Hutchins, one of Henry's foremost businessmen for many years; she was born April 9, 1846 and died March 30, 1931; their children were: Mrs. Jenness, the eldest and only survivor, and also a heavy contributor of information for this story, Clara Kate (Mrs. Marshall) Downey, Jennie P., and Horace Frank, all of whom have passed away.

Survivors Re-Marry

The father of this family, Silas Locke, Sr., an ambitious pioneer, according to Mrs. Nesbit, was busily engaged in helping his neighbors with their "housing problems" in November, 1848, cutting and hauling logs for more and more new cabins in the Henry area, when he was caught miles from home in a freezing November rain, suffered a severe chill, and developed what in those days was called "quick consumption." His death took place three months later, on Feb. 2, 1849, at the age of 42. He was buried in the old Henry (now Hoyt) cemetery, one of the very early burials in it.

Not long before, his older brother John, the New York City carpenter, had lost his own mate, Catherine. In 1850, he came west, to Henry, and in October of that same year, the two bereft Lockes were married, combining the two families. (Silas' children: George Monroe, Silas, Jr., Washington B., and Mercy Victoria; John's children: Charles, George Washington, Amelia (Camp), Sarah, Kate (Hull), James T., and Franklin A.)

In the obituaries of both John (Dec. 11, 1802-Sept. 4, 1878) and Hannah (Feb. 5, 1807-Feb. 16, 1902) is mentioned a child born to them, in 1851, not named, which died in early childhood. On the southern portion of the combined Locke lots in the Hoyt cemetery, is a grave of Harriet Fanning Locke, next south of her mother, ap-

parently, no dates given, who is more than likely this unidentified child—there is no place for her except that, in either family table as Mrs. Jenness has given it to us.

Went to Minnesota

Caught by the still rampant pioneering spirit which even many Marshall county residents experienced after living here for some time, the re-constituted Locke family left here, in the spring of 1868, for St. James, Minn., to take up claims in some newly-opened country, formerly a Sioux Indian reservation recently vacated.

Both Mrs. Jenness and newspaper accounts tell us that the family remained there only a few years, experiencing several total crop failures, from a combination of grasshopper plagues and vengeful raids by the much disgruntled, dispossessed Sioux Indians, who had vowed to make life so miserable for the new white immigrants that they would soon depart.

The parents, then well along in years, did become discouraged enough to give up the venture, and return to Henry; however, three of the younger generation remained in Minnesota to "stick it out," Charles H. (April 25, 1836-Aug. 4, 1904) and James T. (May 10, 1847-Nov. 23, 1915), both sons of John Locke, and Silas Locke, Jr., (1844-May 23, 1881), son of Silas, Sr.; Charles and Silas both died and were buried at St. James, Minn., but James T., published reports state, died at Grantsburg, Wis., and was buried at Long Lake, Minn., about 15 miles west of Minneapolis, and about half-way on a southwest-northeast diagonal between Grantsburg, Wis., and St. James, Minn.

Silas Lockes Operated Hotel

Another interesting note in Henry's business life is the fact that the Silas Lockes, during their early years in Henry, opened up one of the city's first public lodging houses, variously known in those days as inns, taverns, hostelries, etc., known as the "Planter House," which was the fore-runner of the long famous Paskell House, which stood, before the big Henry business district fire of Jan. 21, 1901, on the present site of the Read brothers' hardware store.

The old Planter House, so Mrs. Nesbit tells us, was named for the ship on which their ancestors had crossed the Atlantic to the New World, a century or so before, from their native England.

Mrs. Nesbit's letter tells of how her father, as a very young lad, "helped" with some of the chores around the hotel. Whenever travelers drove up, his mother would say, "Boys, get me chickens!" and off he and his younger brother Silas, Jr., would go, with the family dog for help. They never returned without as many as were necessary. George Monroe Locke was quoted as saying, "Mother could dress and prepare chicken the quickest of any woman I have ever known."

(Years later, the old Paskell House, a worthy successor of the earlier inn, was widely and well known for the excellence of its chicken dinners.)

Other Prominent Early Settlers

In concluding the story of this/these cemetery/ies, we shall consider the uninclosed portion first, telling what little we know about several people buried in it; and finally, some very interesting items about some people buried in the inclosed portion, who happened to be there only because of the fortuitous circumstance that their "lots" fell within a rectangle bounded by the outermost of the Hoyt families' holdings, and so came to be inclosed within the concrete block wall that now separates the two present cemeteries.

Mention was made earlier in this story of a William W. Pool, infant son of Simeon and Elizabeth Pool, who died Aug. 8, 1836, at the age of seven months. Elizabeth herself, at the age of only 43, was another early burial in the cemetery, dying Sept. 4, 1849.

(We definitely know that the majority of the Pools hereabouts, however, were children and grandchildren of Guy Pool, among them being Mary (Mrs. Jared) Jones (both buried in Henry City cemetery); Albert M. Pool, father-in-law of T. Frank McCoy, a prominent jeweler and clock-maker in Henry for many years; and Lucy Maria (Mrs. John) Black, second wife of an early Henry settler (though buried at Wyoming, in 1898) whose first wife, Harriet Culter Black, is buried in the inclosed portion of the cemetery.)

Three Members of York Family

The next familiar name, coming down the roster of burials in the uninclosed portion, is a well-known one to most old-time Henry residents, the name York. Lucy Ann York, wife of Solomon, Sr., who died Sept. 11, 1854, at the age of 43, one of the early deaths in the epidemic of "black diphtheria" mentioned earlier in this chapter, and two infant nephews, George (June 30, 1849—Oct. 17, 1850) and John (Aug. 15, 1851—Nov. 15, 1854, also in the epidemic period), children of William and Mary York, lie buried in the southeast corner of the uninclosed portion, south of and very close to James and Nancy Elston, mentioned earlier in the story, whose graves are across and inside the concrete block fence just to the north.

On lot 61 of Section C-South in the newer Henry City cemetery, are buried five members of the York family, one of them being Capt. "Sol" York (1846—1936), a widely-known river boat captain, who piloted many of the long-famous side and stern-wheelers up and down the Illinois in a now bygone but once picturesque era. Another grave is that of William York (Jan. 10, 1806—May 10, 1863), which was moved from elsewhere into the newer cemetery—undoubtedly from this one. (Mary, however, was buried in Calvary.)

From the ages of Lucy Ann (born about 1810 or 1811) and William (born in 1806), it would seem that the former's husband Solomon was a brother of the latter. At the moment, we do not know where Solomon Sr. is buried.

Relatives of Putnam Cooks, Henry Morgans

Almost adjoining the York lot is one apparently belonging to a

Cook family, represented by two graves, mother and son, both of whom died in the "black diphtheria" epidemic period of 1854. The mother's name is not given in full on her stone, only the initials "H. M." wife of "J. W." Cook (July 11, 1822—Aug. 26, 1854); buried next to her is a 14-months-old son, John M. (Sept. 19, 1853—Nov. 14, 1854).

Mrs. Guy Wilson of Henry tells us these people are relatives of hers and her brother, Frank Morgan of Henry, and also of the late Fred Cook, buried in Putnam.

Of the remainder of the 35 marked burials still remaining in the unclosed part of the cemetery, only a few names have even recent representation in Henry's population. (Only nine of them were adults.) The late Amza Joyce, well remembered in Henry, has two older infant sisters, Audelia and Ann, buried here; Mrs. Annetta (Hill) Wanser, who will also be well remembered by older Henry residents, has an infant son, Charles H., buried here, in 1860; Mr. and Mrs. Loton Frisbey, among the first farmers in the area (their farm holdings centered around the Henry-Whitefield-Senachwine township line junction, and included much of the former Samuel G. Chesney farm), have a 4½-year-old daughter, Gleora Minerva, buried here in 1855.

Revolutionary Soldier Buried Here?

Miles Dunnington, who now owns this land, says he believes there is a Revolutionary War soldier buried in the unclosed portion; but upon being asked, could not give his name, off-hand. Although we have several times thoroughly "canvassed" this unclosed portion, we have never run upon any stone which might indicate one.

Early next spring, with Mr. Dunnington's services as a guide, we intend to look further into the matter.

Graves Beginning to be Neglected

Returning for a moment to the historical motif rather than the strictly personal, it will be remembered that the land (about four acres, perhaps five) on which this cemetery stands, was never deeded, conveyed, nor dedicated for use as a cemetery. No board of directors ever functioned for it; no lots were ever sold; no money was ever collected for care, either annual or perpetual. Strictly speaking, it was never a "cemetery," in the legal sense of the word as understood today—instead, it was simply a "burying ground," which residents of the Henry area were welcome to use whenever the need arose.

The land, of course, still belonged in its entirety to its original "donor," Daniel N. Blood, Sr., who lived at the time on the land, now the property of Miles Dunnington.

Because of this rather informal status, with each family responsible only in a wholly moral sense for the upkeep of its holdings, and in person, rather than through any authorized "sexton" of the grounds, it was easy to foretell what would eventually happen, and

early newspaper accounts describe exactly what did happen.

Along in the mid-1860's, Mr. Blood and his family began to openly deplore the sadly unkempt conditions that their "generosity" had paved the way for; yet, they hardly felt any personal obligation to expend their own time and energy, "cleaning up" and caring for earlier graves that were beginning to be wholly neglected. They can hardly be blamed for feeling as they did.

New Cemetery Organized

One story, wholly heresay, however, had it that the Bloods finally announced publicly that all who had people buried on their land, would kindly move their graves elsewhere; that they intended to farm the land again. We are not sure that this actually happened, although we have heard the story many times, so it probably has some factual basis.

Just when the movement officially began, we have never discovered in print, but undoubtedly, it took place in 1866, perhaps slightly earlier or later, because in the spring of 1867, work was proceeding swiftly to put in shape, a newer, much larger, and far more attractive cemetery for the Henry community, located somewhat nearer the city itself.

This one was organized as a cemetery should be organized; it had a board of directors, it sold and conveyed lots, and it engaged a regular caretaker. Although "perpetual care" as now defined was not yet in vogue, it did make annual care charges, for a number of years. The wisdom of its early founders was such that the cemetery board was largely self-perpetuating, and its finances today are in excellent condition. In our opinion, it is one of the most efficiently, yet most economically, operated cemeteries in a community of this size to be found anywhere.

A dedication and grand opening was held on May 10, 1867, with a procession of horses and carriages to the cemetery, and a lengthy program, following which those in attendance drove or walked through the spacious, well-laid-out grounds via winding driveways, to remark over and over again of the beauty of the place.

Death by Lightning

Just two days later, the order for the first grave-opening in the new cemetery was placed. A Henry resident named John Hindmarsh, who lived at the upper end of Main street, standing too close to a downspout along the side of his home, was instantly killed when a bolt of lightning struck the corner of his house, and the charge in traveling down the pipe, jumped across to where he was standing on damp ground.

His widow, formerly Elizabeth Heacock (a sister of Russell Heacock, who was a prominent figure in Henry history almost from his arrival from his native Canada, in 1841, being mayor, alderman, and assessor in his lifetime), survived him until 1898.

On May 31, 1867, a public auction of lots in the new cemetery was

held, "largely attended," as the newspaper account put it. Quite a few lots were sold—a list of them is given in the issue of Thursday, June 6, 1867, of the (then) Marshall County Republican. However, from a previous listing of the members of the new cemetery's board, it appeared that the board members themselves did most of the bidding, or most of the buying—of the 15 successful bidders, all but a few were members of the cemetery's own board!

Board Members Bid High

Just what went on at this auction can become an interesting bit of speculation. Faced with the recorded fact that almost all of the actual sales were to board members, we are greatly tempted to wonder why. Were they over-bidding purposely, to try to raise as much money as possible for the new cemetery's treasury, and "got stuck" on prices they hardly wanted to pay?—or were they trying to "set an example" by purposely putting the prices high? We rather suspect the latter—because few actual townspeople, for all the new cemetery received what we'd call quite a "publicity build-up" in the local press the issue previous to the sale, bought actual space at the auction.

Looking through the list of successful bidders published, and knowing, from our own carefully kept plat of lot-owners in the cemetery, we note that it was definitely the "choice" lots that went in that auction. Four were sold at \$200 each; one at \$250. Quite a few sold for from \$100 to \$180. Most of the high prices came early in the sale, if the list of purchasers, as we strongly suspect it was, was given in exact chronological order. At the end, are listed two sales, one for \$80, for four lots, and another for \$60 for two lots (both sales in a not-quite-so-choice section), which may have terminated the auction rather abruptly—things weren't going so well! (Even so, the cemetery realized \$2,070 on the sale.)

(The four lots for \$80, incidently, were purchased by the late Elder (Rev.) William Ray Stowe, a prominent clergyman in Henry a century ago, a grandfather of the late Mrs. Thomas C. Waterous of Henry, and great-grandfather of Mrs. Raymond Hunt and Ted Waterous. The two lots for \$60 were purchased by John and Nathan B. Whitney, brothers, both of whom should be well remembered locally.)

Great Exodus of Graves from Old Cemetery

In the next few years after May, 1867, there is plenty of evidence of a mass exodus of graves from the old to the new cemetery. As stated earlier in this story, a total of 131 graves in the latter, bear pre-1867 dates of death; quite likely, at least 100 of these came from the older cemetery, possibly as many as 115 to 120.

To attempt to list all the families which did move one or more graves during that period, would be almost a prohibitive task, and even then could omit several. Most of them were re-located in the northerly half of the newer cemetery, in the sections which on its plat are designated Sections C-North, B-North, D-North, E-North, and

F-North. and the whole of the central circle known as the A section. (Lots in this last brought the highest prices in the auction sale reported earlier.) Indeed, these sections were opened up first, and it was not until some years later that the correspondingly-lettered "South" sections were made use of to any extent.

(There were two exceptions to the latter, however: (1) the Soldiers' block, three lots in Section C-South, was set aside at a very early date, its first non-transferred burial being in 1874, Charles Bell, a Civil War soldier, father of Miss Annie Laurie Bell of Henry, who died in quite recent years; and (2), the westerly end of Section E-South, which lies in the hollow along the south boundary driveway, at the southwest corner of the "old" portion of the cemetery—this being used for indigent burials, and single graves. (Unkind souls would call it a "potter's field.")

Hoyts Buy Land from Blood Interests

For what reason, we will probably never know, but only one portion of the Hoyt family, who by 1867 had numerous burials in the older cemetery, ever joined the mass exodus of burials which took place shortly after that date. This was the Chauncey B. Hoyt family, his widow, Huldah Hoyt, having his grave moved to the newer cemetery. (He died Dec. 13, 1860, at 56.) The remainder all elected to have their graves remain in the older cemetery, and thereupon, bought the space their families had been using, from Mr. Blood. (This also included the Lockes and Fergusons.) Thereafter, they continued to keep their thus-purchased holdings in excellent condition, and likewise continued to bury their family members in them, up to as recently as 1922, as reported earlier in the story.

Just when the transaction mentioned took place, we have never learned, but it was doubtless while Daniel Blood, Sr., was living. (He died July 11, 1890.)

It was not until many years later, however, that the concrete block fence which finally divided the original cemetery into two, was built—as near as we can deduce from what information we have received, about 1914 or 1915. It was built, according to his daughter Mrs. Nesbit, by George Monroe Locke (at a cost in those days of \$50!). The ground it inclosed was almost square, and included all the Hoyt, Locke, and Ferguson graves—and since they were not at all contiguous, a sizeable numbers of others as well.

We know of several more burials subsequent to 1867 in the uninclosed portion: the (former) Henry Republican, in an issue in May, 1888, records that a Mrs. Elizabeth Lambright (June 30, 1799—April 30, 1888) was at her own request, buried beside her twin sister, Mrs. Mary Shibley (June 30, 1799—October, 1854, actual date illegible), in the old cemetery; both were widows, and neither's husband was buried anywhere near Henry. And there were several others in the 20 or so years previous to then.

The Pendleton Family

Inclosed within the concrete block fence, near the southwest corner, lie several members of a family that played a most important role in Henry's early history, that of Rev. H. G. Pendleton.

The earliest published reference to him was as a young man, a theological seminary student, coming as a stated supply to the then newly-organized Granville Presbyterian church, in April, 1839, where he received his ordination as a clergyman about a year later, by the Presbytery of Peoria. He remained as pastor of the Granville church somewhat over four additional years, when a considerable dispute arose over his strong pro-slavery leanings—for Granville was an equally strong abolitionist community, thanks to the efforts of Benjamin Lundy of Putnam county and his militant abolitionist following. Rev. Pendleton left Granville in August of 1844, to become the pastor of the (former) Lacon Presbyterian church.

During his pastorate of about a year at Lacon, he succeeded in organizing in Henry, a "New School" Presbyterian church, with 12 charter members (though no published history we have ever consulted divulges who they were), on March 29, 1845. It was officially recognized and received into the Presbytery of Peoria, and functioned as such for about five years, when, for reasons we have never been able to find in either print or local hearsay, it severed its Presbyterian connections and became a Congregational church, continuing as such until February, 1899, when it merged with a later-organized Presbyterian church in Henry, to continue as the latter.

Takes Over Female Seminary

Rev. Pendleton was pastor of this church upon its organization, and even though it changed denominations (March 31, 1850), both continued as its pastor, and as well, his membership in the Presbytery of Peoria. Meanwhile, he had also organized another Presbyterian church in Providence, in the Bureau county area southwest of Tiskilwa, which he also served for four years as a part-time pastor.

Several months after Rev. Pendleton began his ministerial career as a licentiate (unordained theological student licensed to preach and temporarily supply a vacant church pulpit), there was begun near Henry, what was for about 30 years known as the "Henry Female Seminary." Written history states that it first opened its doors (to young ladies planning a career as school teachers) on Nov. 12, 1839—only seven years after the first permanent settlers in Henry established homes here!

The building stood almost across what is now Rte. 29, (a few rods south, however), from the cemetery which has been the subject of this story. It is described as being 44 feet square, three stories high, with an addition two stories high, 16 by 40 feet. It was made of locally-manufactured brick, and was apparently a "boarding school," that is, its students resided the whole term on the premises. The building was completely destroyed by fire on Feb. 15, 1855.

Rebuilt Larger and Better

Just as so often happens, this disastrous fire turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Funds were readily forthcoming for rebuilding the fire-destroyed structure, and by the opening of the 1855 fall term, one unit of the new building was ready for occupancy. By the summer of the next year, a new main building, almost twice the size of the older one, had been completed.

Hardly had the seminary resumed functioning smoothly in its newer, larger quarters, when the Panic of 1857 struck it full blast, and shortly thereafter, it had to close its doors. Eventually, in the fall of 1869, it was sold to the German Reformed church, which operated it for a time, but eventually dismantled the building, and Henry's venture as a center of higher learning definitely came to an end.

But back to Rev. Pendleton's family: at least five members of it lie buried in the present Hoyt cemetery. First, an infant son, William Henry, who died in Feb., 1842, at 22 months; next, an unnamed infant daughter, in October, 1845. (We have reason to think the first-named may have been moved in from elsewhere.) Next was his first wife, Elizabeth L. (Hart), who died, at 41, on Feb. 22, 1850.

In September of that same year, he re-married; but the following year (1851) was a tragic one for him: he lost successively, on May 6, a 3-year-old daughter Ann; on June 7, a stillborn infant daughter, unnamed; and finally, on July 6, his second wife, Sarah W. (Dana) Pendleton, from the complications of the age-old problem of womankind which cost so many young mothers' lives in that day of lack of medical knowledge.

On her panel on the Pendleton monument in Hoyt cemetery can be read: "She was for 11 years a successful teacher in Ohio, Ky., and Tenn., and the last year of her life was principal of the Henry Female Seminary."

If Rev. Pendleton himself is buried here, there is no mark to show it. He married a third time, in 1852, Emily Booth, left Henry a few years later, and died July 1, 1888, at Chenoa, Ill., survived by her and four daughters. Quite likely, he was buried at Chenoa, rather than here.

CHAPTER VIII

THE MERDIAN — WEIS — APFEL CEMETERY

This little cemetery has, indeed, almost as many "names" as it has burials remaining in it! — and probably not a single one of those is "official," because as we have noted so many times about others in this book, it was never officially established as a "legal" cemetery. The acre of ground it occupies, as in most other cases we have described, was never officially deeded, conveyed, nor dedicated as a burial ground. Like "Topsy" in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," it "jest growed."

The name we give it here, is probably no closer to being its "official name," if it ever had one, than any other of the half-dozen or more we have heard it called or read about in old newspaper files. The earliest reference to it we have so far found in print, in 1871, calls it the "German" cemetery. Shortly after the opening of the newer Calvary cemetery, in 1874, we read of it as the "old German" cemetery. Still later, in the early 1880's, it is called the "Irish" cemetery. And after the opening of St. Patrick's cemetery in the early spring of 1886, it is then referred to as the "old Irish" cemetery.

Our first knowledge of even its existence, came some eight years ago from a 45-year-old list of soldier burials in this area, kept by the late Howard Young, for many years adjutant of the Lookout Mountain post of the G.A.R., who refers to it as the "Old Catholic" cemetery.

However, several members of the extensive Merdian family, one of Henry's oldest as well as largest, insist that its real name is the "Merdian" cemetery. And we have also heard it call the "Merdian-Weis," "Merdian-Apfel," "Weis-Apfel," and possibly even other combinations. Our (wholly artificial) nomenclature for it, above, is so designed as to include every family that may have had a hand in it in the past, so that no hard feelings will ensue over the title.

Earliest Catholic Cemetery in Henry Area

Its early history, as with so many others we have described, is shrouded in the "vagueness of antiquity," to the point where it is almost impossible to date it. Where we have been able to assign a fairly accurate first-date-of-usage with certain others, we are confronted with two unfortunate circumstances in this case: (1) we are nowhere near as well posted about most of the families represented in it (and its two successor cemeteries) as we have been with many other families who have used the particular ones described earlier in this volume, and, (2) as with the Old Henry cemetery, so many

graves originally made in this one have been moved out (to the two Roman Catholic parish cemeteries now serving the Henry community) that we are at a complete loss to gain much actual, authentic knowledge about its earliest burials.

We have been told a number of interesting bits of information about this cemetery and some of the people and families represented in it, and we have had to use a considerable amount of pure speculation (some of which may not be wholly correct) in some other regards. Perhaps the most important introductory remark to make might be, that although probably 100 per cent of the burials in it, past as well as present, were those of Roman Catholics, it was never intended to be, nor dedicated for use as, nor ever actually considered to be, an "official" Catholic parish cemetery.

The most obvious explanation of this is, that at the time of the (probable) earliest burials in it, there was no regularly organized Roman Catholic parish in the Henry community.

Earliest Services Held in Apfel Home

A portion, at least, of the history of this little cemetery, roughly about an acre in extent, is coincident with the history of Roman Catholicism—not as an organized parish, but as of a number of immigrant families, most of them South Germans, almost all of whom were of that faith—in the Henry area.

Published histories state that the so-called "Dutch Settlement" in lower Henry township, had its earliest beginnings in about 1837, with the advent of about five families, mostly of Bavarian ancestry: those of George and William Klein, George Heller, Frederick Reinbeck (Austrian, rather than Bavarian), and Anton Apfel.

The following year saw the arrival of the Valentine Weis and Anton Sidel families, and the next, 1839, that of the Fred W. Troendley and Balser Klein families.

During the next 20 years, a sizeable number of others of the same nationality and faith came to the Henry-Whitefield area to make their homes, including such familiar names in the community as Merdian, Neuhalphen, Mattern, Bickerman, Toemmes (later changed by some to Thomas), Peterman, and many others perhaps less familiar.

The Anton Apfel family bought land in Section 30, and (probably) donated an acre or so of it for use as a neighborhood burying ground, located at just about the exact center of the section. There were doubtless two reasons for this: (1) there was at that time, no organized Roman Catholic parish in the neighborhood, and (2) the nearby Anton Apfel home, if we have been told correctly, was the site of the first (and for several years thereafter) Roman Catholic services held in this area.

Church Organized About 1850

During those early years, when things "were in a state of flux." as the expression is so commonly used for general instability

and uncertainty in getting something finally organized, these South Germans were served by a few nearby parish priests, and others of a more missionary character, on irregular and occasional visits. It was not until about 1850, or perhaps shortly before—local history is rather vague on this point—that the St. Mary's parish of Henry was formally organized.

Ellworth's volume states that it built its first building in Henry, in 1850, but that only two years later, it became necessary to rebuild and enlarge it. The foundation for the second building (where the parish school building now stands) was laid in 1852, and the edifice itself completed in 1854. (This building served the parish until 1909, when a magnificent new structure was completed and dedicated, which still serves the parish in an admirable manner.)

Earliest Burials

As with so many others, the presence of (1) possible, very early, unmarked burials, (2) early graves moved in from elsewhere (very common in those particular days), and (3) more than likely, a sizeable number of very early graves moved out of it, make it close to impossible to date this cemetery within a period closer than possibly 10 years.

The earliest date of death on a stone still remaining in it, is 1843; Markrid Koch, wife of Henry Koch, died on Aug. 8 of that year. Next is Augusta B. Ackerman, four-year-old daughter of A. C. and E. Ackerman, who died Sept. 3, 1844.

Then follows a gap of about eight years, until 1852, with two burials in the fall of that year: Christina Merdian, infant daughter of Johan Joseph and Mary (Burgun) Merdian, who died at 2 years, 9 months, and 19 days, on Sept. 2, 1852; and Thomas R. Loynd (which could have been mis-spelled, mis-read, or mis-copied—we have never seen such a name elsewhere in our lives!), who died Oct. 6, 1852, the age being illegible.

From then on until 1874, hardly a year passes without from one to three burials, (all of the three in 1854 taking place during the "black diphtheria" epidemic period described in another chapter in this volume), ending rather abruptly in 1874. We know of only six burials in it after that year. The reasons were rather obvious: (1) the opening up, in 1874, of the St. Mary's parish Calvary cemetery, and (2) the final "coup de grace" supplied by the opening up, in the early spring of 1886, of the St. Joseph's parish St. Patrick's cemetery.

German, Irish, Portions Separated

Anyone browsing through the pitifully neglected, badly-overgrown-with-brush remains of this little cemetery, with very much of a perceptive eye, can deduce several things of interest. About the first is, the growth and expansion of it, from west to east. The gate, constructed of a durable hardwood, stands at the southwest corner, and for all its age and disuse and lack of maintenance (with an occasional coat of paint), it is still in reasonably good condition! (It

slides, rather than being hinged.) Another is, that the earliest burials in it, represented by what few stones still remain for present-day inspection, are all in the westerly third of the cemetery; and without exception, the names on these stones—Mattern, Apfel, Haas, Peterman, and Merdian (besides Koch and Ackerman already given)—are all of distinctly German flavor.

By contrast, the easterly two thirds of the area is filled with names with just as positive an Irish ring; and though they begin almost as early as do the German names, for dates (1853 the earliest, James Hartley, 50 years old), they continue on well past 1874, to the last burial in it of which we have any knowledge, that of Margaret Murnane, 18 years old, who died of "consumption" on Nov. 21, 1885. (Her grave, however, was more than likely moved in the post-1886 exodus, to the then newly-opened-up St. Patrick's cemetery. The Murnanes were related to the Harney family, and although the name itself no longer is to be found hereabouts, the blood line is, through the latter name.)

Many Graves Moved Out

The South German families, which formed the nucleus of the original St. Mary's church, did a much more thorough job of moving their graves out to their new (1874) Calvary cemetery, than did the less-numerous Irish, who arrived somewhat later. Only one grave of each of the seven German names above still remains in it.

(Because we have never become as familiar with the Calvary cemetery and its burials as we have the Henry City cemetery, with which we have far more frequent contact, we are unable to tabulate just how many, or which, graves have been likely moved into Calvary, from this little cemetery. A wild guess, however, might be "about fifty or so." This is arrived at, considering the proportion of Roman Catholics in the overall population of the area served by these Henry township cemeteries, in that period, plus an estimate of how many graves would likely be missing from the area occupied by the German population, in this cemetery, which appears to have had definite boundaries.)

Published histories of the area are not very thorough on their biographical coverage of South German immigrant families in this area; relatively few have ever found their way into them. This was likely because many of them kept rather aloof from their English-speaking neighbors, for the first generation after their arrival here at least; and even for quite a few years, the German language was still used almost exclusively by them, in their family, social, business, and even religious life—a circumstance not at all uncommon with "national" groups in their new Stateside homes, all over the country, for at least their first (immigrant) generation.

(This last circumstance, the persistent use by the early priests of St. Mary's church of the German language in vernacular portions of Catholic services, finally led to the separation of the Henry Catho-

lic population, in 1874, into two churches; the English-speaking Irish portion of the parish family finally succeeded in having the Bishop of Peoria separate it into two churches, and the St. Joseph's parish was born.)

The Merdian Family

Although far from being the earliest of the South German families to arrive in the Henry area, the one which most heavily populated it in succeeding years— in fact, one of the very most numerous to be found anywhere hereabouts—was the family of Johan Joseph Merdian, born Nov. 18 or 19, 1811, in the (then) Kingdom of Bavaria. (Germany had not yet then been unified under a single king.) As a young man, still unmarried, he came to the States, remaining in New York for several years, where he met and married Mary Ursula Burgun, a native of the province of Lorraine.

In his native Bavaria, Joseph (as he was usually called) had learned the wagon-maker's trade, and was anxious to go into business for himself, somewhere in the States. He had made one trip to Marshall county, and liked its prospects, but was hampered by an insufficiency of capital to set himself up, anywhere, at the moment.

During his short second stay in New York (having left his wife and two eldest children there while he made his first trip here in 1842), he was able to borrow \$500. His second trip to Marshall county included his family.

Upon the family's arrival here, he used some of the money to buy some good Illinois bottom land, in Sections 29 and 30 of Henry township, and the remainder to set up his wagon-making business in Henry itself.

Sells Wagon Shop

The second, and permanent, arrival of Joseph Merdian in Henry township was in 1843. Published records do not state just how long he operated his wagonworks here, or when he sold it, or why—but it is to be presumed that the income from farming the rich land he had bought along the river, appealed to him more than that from wagon-making. Likewise, local records are silent as to who succeeded him in the wagon business. (Henry was quite a wagon manufacturing center a century ago; there were several wagon factories here for many years.)

At any rate, he later concentrated on farming, buying more and more land, until at his death on March 2, 1893, he was accounted a very wealthy man. His wife survived him by nearly 17 years. Both are buried in Calvary cemetery, as are most of their children.

As did most couples in that day, the Joseph Merdians had what would be accounted today, a large family. Published records do not agree on exactly how many children; one record says eleven, and another says ten. However, nine of them grew to maturity, and all but three remained to raise their own families within a very few miles of Henry.

One Buried in This Cemetery

Two of the Joseph Merdians' children came with them to Henry in 1843: Stephen Joseph, born May 2, 1839; and Mary A., who later became Mrs. Marcus Reiser, born in 1842. (We can account for ten children; if there was an eleventh, it must have come between these two named, died in infancy in New York, and was buried there. At least, we have never found but one Merdian infant's grave hereabouts (unless there might be an unmarked one in this cemetery)—and this family has been unusually conscientious about marking well all its graves, wherever located.)

Clara, next after Mary (Reiser), who married Fred Wolf, and lived in the McNabb-Mt. Palatine area, and George, who left here for the Portland, Ore., area, come next, followed by baby Christina, whose grave, as noted earlier in this story, remains in this little cemetery. Five sons, Peter, Conrad, John, Barnhard, and Henry, who was the last survivor of the family, complete the roster.

All of these last except John remained to marry and bring up their families in the Henry area. John, who married Sarah Jane Balleweg, a Henry girl, went to Minonk, where both died and were buried, some years ago.

Henry, the last survivor of the original second generation, passed away on March 7, 1958, one month and 5 days past his 91st birthday.

It is interesting to note that only one name of the hundreds listed in the Henry telephone directory outnumbers the Merdians; there are 12 Merdians, and 15 Bogners, a family which is closely allied through several marriages between the two.

Other German Families

Certainly this cemetery was not named, if it ever was, from any great preponderance of Merdian, Weis, or Apfel burials in it! Only one Merdian (baby Christina), no Weis's, and only one Apfel (Anthony, who died at 42 on Oct. 10, 1853) remain buried in it, and probably few, if any, were ever moved out of it.

As for the Weis family, the name has all but died out completely around Henry. There appear to have been (probably) two sons of Valentine Weis, an early settler in Henry (1838), Edmund, born in Bavaria in 1828, and August C., born in Henry township in 1839, who married and raised families here.

Edmund farmed at one time about 80 years ago, in Section 36 of Whitefield township, its southeast corner section, and in the northeast quarter of it, through which both Rte. 29 and the Rock Island railroad pass diagonally, still held (in the last revision of the Marshall-Putnam plat-book, published several years ago), by a member of the Weis family.

Edmund Weis' wife was formerly Johanna Lindsey; they had eight children, of which six grew to maturity: Michael (who went to Woodford county, across the Illinois river from Chillicothe), Alexander, Ida (Mrs. Otto) Noll, (who also lived in Woodford county,

near her brother Michael), Conrad (who remained around Henry, and died Dec. 16, 1942, in Henry), Edmund, Jr. (who joined two elder ones of the family across the river from Chillicothe), and Emma.

Operated Provisions, Musical Instrument Business

The other branch of the family, that of August C. Weis, lived for the most part in Henry itself, and were probably better known than the first-named.

The father, Valentine Weis, is said to have built the first store building to stand on the spot now occupied by the Fairbanks building, and in it, conducted a grocery, general provisions, and musical instrument store, for a great many years. Upon his retirement in 1870, his son August C. Weis succeeded him in the business. He is said to have been a composer of music himself, of some note.

Among the children of August C. and Mary (Troendley) Weis were Kathryn (Mrs. Walter) Harrison (Feb. 8, 1870—May 1, 1930, buried in the Harrison lot in Henry City cemetery), George (Sept. 10, 1868—March 4, 1952), Emma, Frank, and Fred, for many years the efficient movie projector operator at the Henry theatre, who died within the past two years. (We do not have actual dates for the last three named.)

Of the Apfel family, we have never found but very little published information. No published biographies of any of them appear in any of the books we have ever examined. Our only present source of information comes from an atlas of Marshall county published in 1873, which lists two Apfels, C(onrad?), who owned land in Section 30 of Henry township, closely adjoining (to the south) the site of our little cemetery; and A(nton?), who owned the land on which it actually stands, and where he, or some other Anthony/Anton Apfel is buried. (The names are synonymous, and were sometimes interchanged. Likewise, there is a large family of Appels hereabouts—this too may have been a change in spelling adopted by later generations of the original Apfel family, though we do not know this for sure.)

Finally, the wife of William B. Merdian ("Billie"), who farms the land formerly belonging to the estate of his late father, Barnhard Merdian, was nee Edith Apfel.

Matterns, Petermans

Two others of the German families represented in this cemetery are those of George Peter and Frances (Erich) Mattern, and Adam and Regina (Lippert) Peterman. The former couple was listed in published biographies as having had seven children who grew to maturity: George P., Katherine, Michael J., Stephen, Margaret (Bickerman), William, and Henry. To these, probably between George P. and Katherine, must be added John V. Mattern, (Aug. 23, 1846—Feb. 5, 1853) buried in this cemetery.

The Peterman family, William, Lawrence, Frank, Katherine, John, Ida, and Henry, and perhaps some others we may have unintention-

ally omitted from not knowing them as well as we do some others, were more than likely grandchildren of the lone Petermann (spelled on the stone with two "n's," rather than the way living members of the family now spell it) buried here: Nicholas Petermann, who died Aug. 11, 1859, at 56. (If his wife is buried here too, there is no stone to indicate it.)

The Irish Families

The bulk of the names still on stones in this cemetery, 22 in number, are definitely Irish; but of the 22, only eight are still represented locally: Hartley, Dorsey, Finnegan, Jennett, Ford, Green, Harrington, O'Brien, and Landers. Several of these we have asked about possible relationships; Harringtons and O'Briens disclaim any relationships, and Finnegans are very doubtful about any. It could easily be—all eight are reasonably common Irish names.

The oldest persons in it are: Patrick Finnegan (1789-1880), one of the last few burials in it, and his wife, Mary (Jennett) (1797-1860). Their monument is the largest in the cemetery.

There are three remaining war veterans' graves (at least two were moved out after 1874), all of which are definitely Irish names: Thomas Green, who served in the Mexican War, and James Barrow and Thomas Murray in the Civil War; however, only the last-named has a marker. The other two appear to have been permanently lost as to location. Green died Dec. 30, 1874; Murray in 1879, exact date not known; we have never found Barrow's date of death anywhere.

The Green Family

There was a relationship of sorts between the three. Barrow's widow, nee Mary Higgins, remarried a Patrick Green (on Aug. 16, 1873) as his third wife; and this Patrick Green was a brother of Thomas Green, and also of Thomas Murray's mother. We have been told they were in some manner related to most of the other Greens who have lived hereabouts for close to a century, but in what manner, none we have asked, seem to know exactly.

We do know that Thomas Green had four children; two of them, both daughters, are given in his obituary: Sarah L. (1843-1914) who married Douglas S. Chance; and Ellen E. ("Nellie"), (1851-1889) who married Caleb Forbes, a Civil War veteran, and an uncle of Rank Forbes of Henry. The other two of Thomas Green's children are not named in his obituary, nor is his wife, but from other sources, we know her name was Mary.

The late Matilda (Linse) Morse told us one time that the present disgraceful condition this cemetery has for many years been in, was the result originally of a visitation by a group of vandals, bent on wholesale destruction. They certainly accomplished it in a most systematic and efficient manner; but nothing was ever done to attempt to restore it, nor likely ever will be. It all happened too long ago for anybody to care much, nowadays. How quickly people can forget!

CHAPTER IX. THE WEBSTER CEMETERY

This little burial-ground can boast of at least three unique distinctions among those we have been describing: undoubtedly, it was the earliest in actual use of them all; it was the shortest-lived, and the first to be wholly abandoned; and it literally "swallowed whole," almost, what was once a promising "community with a future."

What happened to that "future," shouldn't happen to any community; but to Webster, it did happen, suddenly and fast. Today, 120 years later, all that remains of the whole original community is a rather vague remembrance of only the name, and a little burying ground, actually closer to Henry than to Webster's original site, along the Illinois river bank near the outlet from Mud Lake. Local nimrods occasionally spot its lone stone remaining upright, pause to read its badly weathered inscription, and move on.

Early Webster Settlers

The whole life of Webster was compressed into less than a single decade; in that span of time, it saw its first settler, a man named Lorenzo Stacy, who built a small cabin near what a few years later came to be known as "Webster Landing," in the winter of 1830-31, only to abandon it about a year later and build another where Henry was beginning to be; get a sudden impulse for growth from a group of "promoters;" suffer a crushing tragedy; and die a violent death, all in only about eight years' time.

Webster as a potential center of population got its start with the arrival of four men, Robert Latta, Alvin Dascomb, Walton Plato, and a Major McAllister, who in 1836, laid off a number of "lots" in the southeast quarter of Section 3 of Henry township. They sold readily, and shortly a dozen or more cabins began to take shape. There was a blacksmith shop opened, also a small "general store," owned by a man named Josiah Hayes—more about him later.

The foursome of proprietors bought machinery for a steam-operated saw mill and grist mill, which eventually arrived and was hauled up the steep bank from the steamboat landing. Things were really "looking up" for Webster.

Trouble Arrives, Too

But things didn't continue to "look up" very long. Certain other things, of a far less welcome nature than the machinery, arrived in its wake—among them a rampant epidemic of "milk fever," reputedly brought in by a group of newly-arrived immigrants from Tazewell county, which quickly "took charge of the situation" and soon caused the whole project to "die a-bornin'."

Plato and Latta were among its first victims, followed in rapid succession by one after another of the stricken village's inhabitants.

until the few who were still on their feet, concluded to use them in a very hurried departure for other locations.

The maximum population of Webster is said to have been around 50. Just how many were left behind in this little burial-ground in the frantic exodus from the doomed village, has never been known. It was so sudden, so complete, and so permanent, that few ever returned to mark the graves they left sorrowfully behind them; perhaps some of them became "lost" in a few years. And most of what few headstones were installed there, in the 120 intervening years, have become broken off and lost.

A Few of the Burials

Ellsworth in his much-quoted volume, published in 1880, indentifies a few of those known to have been buried there. He mentions both Plato and Latta, and also a Mrs. Dennis, possibly the first actual burial in it, whose stone is reported to be the only one still indentifiable. (She has a granddaughter living in Texas, we are told.) Her husband, James Dennis, remarried (Mary C. Pool, a sister of Guy and Simeon Pool, among Henry's earliest settlers), and died in 1863 at the age of 61.

Another which Ellsworth names is a Sallie Snider, whom census records identify as the fourth of 12 children of one of Henry's foremost pioneer citizens, Col. Henry Snider (1791-1855), born probably about 1821 or 1822. Her youngest brother, Edwin, was the grandfather of Ray and Alden Snyder (name spelling changed), both former Henry residents, and still occasional visitors to this city.

Still another was the first wife of storekeeper Josiah Hayes, usually known, from his much abbreviated stature, as "Little" Hayes. In about 1840, he remarried, but in a four-year period, 1845-1849, lost successively, four very young children of his second marriage, and in the latter year, also his second wife, Louisa. (These, however, are all buried in the Hoyt cemetery, rather than the Webster grave-yard.) Soon afterward, he left Marshall county to try to make himself a new life, in Kansas, where, we are told, he eventually became a man of considerable prominence.

Daniel Webster Visited Site

It is said that Daniel Webster himself, for whom the infant village was named, responded to a personal invitation to inspect his namesake community. The visit was a flat failure, however; he is reported to have remarked that it was a "shame" to spoil such good farm land "by driving stakes in it." (The promoters' lot-corners.)

After the last of the cabins disappeared, the land was farmed for a great many years. But in the early spring of 1957, it was bought for an industrial site by the B. F. Goodrich Chemical company, and since then, a magnificent new plant occupies, partly, the site where Webster once stood. So even this many years afterward, little Webster has finally come into its own—even though all that remains of its former, original place in Marshall county history, is this pathetic little grave-yard on the Illinois river bank.

